

Top men go as Rover reveals loss of £200m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The sudden departure of three senior executives from the state-controlled Rover Group, formerly BL, was announced yesterday after it disclosed first-half losses totalling more than £200 million.

Among the casualties is Mr Harold Musgrove, the veteran BL executive who rose from the shop floor to become Austin Rover chairman, and who takes early retirement at the end of this month.

He follows two other BL executives, Mr Ray Horrocks and Mr David Andrews, in being forced out of the ailing group since Mr Graham Day, the new chairman, arrived.

The boardroom cuts have been instituted by Mr Day as part of the creation of a streamlined, two-tier structure to improve group efficiency and give the cars business "more commercial punch".

With Mr Musgrove, aged 57, go Mr Mark Snowdon, the managing director of product development who has guided much of the collaboration between Rover and Honda, and Mr Peter Regnier, finance director of Austin Rover.

Mr Day declined to comment yesterday on the departures, but it is generally accepted Mr Musgrove, who joined Austin as an apprentice at the end of the Second World War, could no longer work under Mr Day.

Mr Musgrove was appointed chairman and chief executive of Austin Rover on its formation in 1982. This latest development in the long running saga of the declining indigenous British motor industry is likely to be followed by more top management changes.

Under the shake-up, Mr Day personally assumes the chairmanship of Austin Rover, Freight Rover, Land Rover and Leyland Trucks.

Promoted are Mr Les Wharton, previously managing director of Leyland Trucks, who becomes managing director of Austin Rover, Mr Tony Rose, finance director of Land Rover Leyland, now group finance director of Austin Rover, and Mr Chris Woodward, managing director of Land Rover Leyland International Holdings, who takes up the new post of Austin Rover commercial director.

The new managing director of Leyland Trucks is Mr George Simpson, also managing director of Freight Rover. Mr Nigel Penn, previously managing director of African operations, is the new managing director of the international company.

Mr Day, charged by the Government with returning the company to profitability in the hope of eventual privatization, said: "I am sure there are lots of skeletons I have not yet found. But there are a hell of a lot of good people and I am going to try to capitalize on the strengths that are there."

Half-year results show an operating loss for the group of £71.1 million against £11.3 million a year earlier. The post-tax loss of £120 million (£43.3 million) was boosted to £204.5 million by an £83.6 million extraordinary item. The latter is a provision for estimated losses arising from the proposed sale of Leyland Bus and Unipart.

Austin Rover, whose market share has tumbled this year and is running this month at below 15 per cent, made a half-year loss of £60.9 million compared with a small £600,000 profit a year ago. In contrast to its poor home sales, Rover's exports were the best for seven years and overseas revenue rose by 20 per cent to a record £354 million.

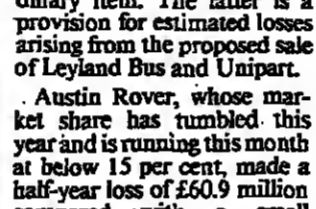
Land Rover, including Freight Rover, improved its performance. Continued on page 16, col 1

Mr Graham Day, tightening hold on reins.



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Side by side: Dr Owen and Mr Steel leaving the studios of Thames Television yesterday.



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US rejects Daniloff proposal

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The feverish search for a solution to the superpower crisis over Mr Nicholas Daniloff continued last night as the United States rejected a Soviet proposal for modifications to a US expulsion order against 25 personnel at the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

Soviet officials have presented several possible arrangements to American officials to secure the release of Mr Daniloff, an American journalist accused of spying in Moscow, and Mr Genaddy Zakharov, a Soviet employee at the UN charged in New York with espionage.

It seemed clear last night that both sides are attempting to put together a package that would have the appearance of falling short of a direct swap. American officials adamantly rejected any linking of the Daniloff case with that of the expulsion of the Soviet personnel at the UN.

The crux of the various Soviet proposals is that Mr Daniloff, a correspondent for US News & World Report, could leave the Soviet Union without trial while Mr Zakharov was tried in the US.

If Mr Zakharov was convicted, he would be swapped for an unspecified number of Soviet dissidents. Administration officials last night said they were hopeful about an early resolution.

The timing of that plan is believed to have been a subject of intense negotiation. The nub of the US position is that Mr Daniloff must be released before any other moves can take place. That would enable the Administration to claim it had not agreed to a swap.

The question of whether the Soviet dissidents would be released before or after Mr Zakharov was sent home was undoubtedly being debated in the continuing talks yesterday.

Another American position is that the case of Mr Zakharov is sub judice and that he must stand trial.

Republican leaders are now flatly rejecting any possibility of a summit between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov until the Daniloff case is settled. Laton talks, page 3

Owen to delay on Liberal merger

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, made it clear last night that he plans to use the Liberal Party's disarray on defence policy to delay any merger between the two Alliance parties.

In a joint interview with Mr David Steel on Thames Television's This Week Dr Owen said that the Liberal Assembly's rebuff to Mr Steel and insistence on a non-nuclear defence policy "confirms my belief that it is not time yet to merge our parties and to put ourselves into collective decision making".

On the same programme Mr Steel confirmed that he intends to defy the Liberal Assembly vote. He supported Dr Owen's insistence that any Alliance government would maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent for Britain even if it involved the replacement of Polaris. That view contradicts long-established Liberal policy.

Mr Steel and Dr Owen now plan not just to continue their drive for agreement on a

expunge as far as possible the memory of the Eastbourne disaster. As the two party leaders began their damage limitation exercise, Dr Owen was noticeably restrained alongside a tense Mr Steel. Though he said he was shocked by the Liberal Assembly's vote he would not be tempted into condemnation of the Liberals.

He said he had sympathy for Mr Steel in his predicament and both admitted that the Liberal Assembly vote had taken them by surprise.

Mr Steel stressed that there was no difference between the Liberal and SDP parliamentary parties, only between him and his own party. "The trouble lies between myself and the parliamentary leadership of the Liberal Party, and the Assembly." It is not a divide between David Owen and me.

Mr Steel is expected to tackle the defence question head-on in his speech to the Liberal Assembly today. Senior Liberals predicted last night that a number in the audience would not like his home truths, which Mr Steel had to offer them.

Assembly reports
David Watt 4
Frank Johnson 12

Is that against DAVID OWEN?
LIBERAL DEFENCE PLAN

Liberals deepen conflict with SDP

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Liberal Party voted yesterday to phase out Britain's nuclear power industry and put itself into further direct conflict with its Alliance partners.

European code agreed to curb terror leaders

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced important steps for improving co-operation within the EEC to help to seek out and "disrupt" the terrorist organizations in Europe.

After the emergency meeting of the Trevi Group of EEC interior ministers in London, Mr Hurd and his European counterparts expressed optimism that the measures agreed would produce more speedy and effective action against the terrorists.

In particular, the 12 ministers have agreed that all the European police forces must share a new communications system for alerting one another on the movement and activities of known terrorists.

Officials at the conference disclosed that this will mean the introduction of a special classified coded system to which only the police and security authorities will have access.

There will also be new arrangements within the Trevi Group for regular up-to-date assessments of terrorist threats and to target the main leaders and organizations.

Mr Hurd, who chaired the conference, made it clear that the police forces in Europe would select from the "thousands of suspects" a small number identified as "really dangerous and significant". Those suspects would be given priority treatment by the police throughout the EEC.

Mr Hurd said: "As terrorists have become better organized, so governments and their counter-terrorist forces are having continually to improve their knowledge and co-operation if they are to prevent terrorist attacks and take effective counter-action if they occur."

He added: "These new measures will help us to target terrorists' movements, supplies of money, arms and equipment, so that we can harry and disrupt them."

Mr Hurd emphasized that there was already co-operation within the EEC and a flow of intelligence information but there was no room for complacency.

As Britain now holds the presidency of the European Council of Ministers, Mr Hurd clearly wanted to be seen to be creating a new political impetus to improve the present procedures.

The EEC ministers reaffirmed their determination not to make any concessions to terrorists and to intensify their efforts against terrorism.

Other measures which are now to become the focus of urgent discussion will include an examination of visa arrangements and a study of extradition procedures to stop terrorists from slipping through any legal loopholes.

There was also unanimous agreement to review security checking systems at airports and to examine more ways of eliminating diplomatic abuses.

The EEC ministers concentrated their efforts on taking steps that would bring quick results. That was in response to the crisis faced by the French Government after the bomb attacks in Paris.

Officials last night emphasized that for the first time all EEC countries seemed ready for the fullest possible co-operation to combat the terrorists threat.

One official said that the French would now be prepared to put up posters of wanted terrorists from other countries, something which in the past they have refused to do.

Today The party's over...



Retiring MP Robert Kilroy-Silk explains why he finally decided to give up his safe Labour seat

Next week Through the roof...

Property boom... or heading for bust? On Monday, The Times begins a three-part series on the roller-coaster property market; picking a path through the minefields of buying and selling; the grief of gazumping; the pain of repossession

Portfolio

Yesterday's £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was won outright by Mrs L Ward of Harborne, Birmingham. Details page 3

There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 23; rules and how to play, information service, 16.

Contra alert

Contra camps in Honduras have been declared off-limits to journalists and US forces put on alert as rumours abound of a forthcoming big attack into Nicaragua Page 8

London list

A further list of London University degrees is published today

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Crosswords, etc.

Scargill forced to cut costs

By Tim Jones

Faced with serious financial difficulties because of the year-long strike which virtually wiped out its £8 million funds, the National Union of Mineworkers executive was told by its president, Mr Arthur Scargill, yesterday of a big economies.

Plans for a grand new showpiece headquarters in Sheffield are to be scaled down and the 22 constituency associations in the 18 NUM areas are to be reduced to 10.

The union's precarious financial position has also been compounded by reduced income from falling membership. Before the strike there were 150,000 members but that is now barely 100,000 because of redundancies and the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The executive also decided to send a nine-man delegation headed by Mr Scargill to meet Sir Robert Haslam, the new chairman of British Coal, in an effort to resolve the festering dispute over back pay.

In a move regarded as a direct challenge to the traditional bargaining role of the union, Sir Robert ordered the immediate payment of rises of £3 a week to the miners which had been blocked by the NUM.

British Coal also received yesterday a two-year pay claim from the UDM which calls for "substantial rises" on grade rates, as well as attendance allowances, secondary incentive bonuses and an early retirement scheme.

Israeli jets hit Sidon PLO base

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The Israeli Air Force turned its attention to Mr Yassar Arafat's main Fatah guerrilla organization east of the Lebanese city of Sidon yesterday, sending three jets to fire rockets at a Palestinian guerrilla base in an olive grove not far from the Mieh Mieh refugee camp.

It was the second raid of its kind in three days and left one guerrilla dead and two others wounded.

Three aircraft dived towards the encampment of the Palestine Liberation Army, the regular military wing of Mr Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, just before midday, while three other Israeli aircraft flew cover at a higher altitude. In case the bombers were attacked by the Syrian Air Force.

Palestinian gunmen entered the wrecked base, claiming that they might give away information of use to the Israelis.

A PLA officer, who gave his name only as "Alaa", confirmed the death of one of his men. Several guerrillas said that the base had a large quantity of 5 calibre machine guns and 106 mm recoilless rifles.

JERUSALEM: A military spokesman here said there were good hits on targets in the raid, including anti-aircraft weapons, firing positions and tents in a wooded area.

Continued on page 16, col 6

Fan killed in gang attack

A football fan was killed when he was hit on the head by a stone after Wednesday night's Stok Cup semi-final in Glasgow between Rangers and Dundee United.

Mr Ian Hamilton, aged 41, of Salsburgh, Lanarkshire, was travelling home with his son, an off-duty policeman, and 10 others when their minibus was attacked by a gang.

Bodies yield clues to ill-fated Arctic expedition

From John Best, Ottawa

Scientists working in the frozen north of Canada have unravelled chilling details of the Sir John Franklin expedition which perished to a man 140 years ago while attempting to find the fabled North-West Passage.

The Franklin expedition spent its first winter locked in the arctic ice aboard two ships, the Erebus and the Terror. Several members, including Franklin, died then.

Two years later, 105 remaining crew members abandoned the ships and headed south, possibly for Hudson's Bay Company post on the Canadian mainland. They were hauling lifeboats.

More than 30 years later, their skeletons were found, stretching in a line across King William Island.

Why they left their ships has never been established, although historians have speculated that scurvy may have begun ravaging the crews.

The latest autopsies revealed no sign of scurvy although it could have played a role in some later deaths, as supplies dwindled.

As a bitter footnote to the Franklin tragedy, the route of the North West Passage, when eventually discovered, was found to lead to the Beaufort Sea rather than the Pacific Ocean and the Orient. The Beaufort Sea is an arm of the Arctic Ocean.

TSB may ballot all applicants

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

The number of would-be investors in Trustee Savings Bank shares emerged yesterday as being close to 4.25 million. The oversubscription means that all non-priority applicants are likely to be balloted, leaving about 1.25 million without shares.

Speculation earlier this week suggested the TSB would choose to ballot only the largest applications. But the bank now looks set to choose a system of balloting all applicants.

Ballotting means choosing applications randomly and rejecting those not picked out.

Sharp fall hits Dow Jones

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

The New York stock market fell sharply yesterday after three days of steady gains, as London also experienced weakness in share prices across the board.

The Dow Jones Industrial share index dropped 38.25 points to 1,765.04.

Traders said that "program" selling by big investors - triggered when shares reach a specific price - was partly to blame but there was also pessimism about a further decline in US interest rates.

In London the FT 30 share index fell 18.5 points to 1,246.1, encouraged by Wall Street's weakness.

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Oil firms to fight back in price war at pumps

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's major oil companies are preparing to fight back against criticism that they are quick to put up petrol prices when crude oil prices rise and are slow to bring them down when costs fall.

They are also determined to end speculation that they act together on pricing and use profits from one section to cover losses in other sectors.

BP Oil will this weekend start distributing leaflets at its 2,000 filling stations explaining when and why petrol prices rise. Other companies stung by criticism from consumer organizations and MPs are considering putting their case more forcefully.

One opinion being considered, which will embarrass the Government, is making sure that prices on pumps clearly show the tax element of every gallon - currently £1.10p.

BP Oil, which will not adopt that tactic, are furious with what it describes as the "unconscious can" voiced by some Conservative MPs when petrol prices were put up.

BP Oil is also angry that most criticism from within Parliament has come from Conservative MPs who, the company says, are members of the political party which calls for non-interventionism in industry by the Government.

The company points to the report by the Commons Energy Select Committee which ruled that there was no reason to support the view that prices rose quickly but fell slowly.

It also says that profit figures do not show that excess profits are made from petrol. While BP as a whole reported record half year profits this year, it lost almost £1 billion on crude oil stocks.

Mr David Kendall, chief executive of BP Oil, the refining and marketing arm of BP, said: "We have to buy crude in the market place in the same way as any other company. Although this may be difficult for the motorist to understand it means that petrol being offered at a cheaper rate by one of our competitors could be made from crude oil which they were able to buy at a cheaper rate than we could."

"It also means that our refineries use oil from companies other than BP and from other companies."

Mr Kendall added: "To answer any charges that we collude in pricing without our competitors is simple. We just couldn't afford to give them any information about our operations which would give them a marketing advantage."

"We are selling the same product in the same market and we have broadly similar operating costs."

"We have to use every advantage over our competitors which we can."

"But as far as working hand in hand is concerned that is nonsense apart from the fact that it would be illegal the market is simply too competitive to for that to work," Mr Kendall said.



Mr Sebastian Guinness, Miss Clara Johnston, her sister Miss Rose Johnston, and her mother at Oxford yesterday after the court appearance of Mr Guinness and Miss Rose Johnston.

Channon party host fined £80

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Gottfried Alexander von Bismarck, the host of the Oxford party at which Miss Olivia Channon, daughter of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, died, was fined £80 by Oxford magistrates yesterday for possessing drugs.

Miss Channon, aged 22, died after celebrating the end of her final examinations.

Von Bismarck, grandson of Germany's Iron Chancellor and a graduate from Christchurch, admitted possessing amphetamine sulphate between January and June.

The prosecution offered no evidence on a second charge of possessing cocaine, after hearing that von Bismarck was in Spain at the time of the alleged offence.

Mr Paul Harrison, for the prosecution, told the court that after Miss Channon's death in the court's bedroom von Bismarck went to the police who found amphetamine sulphate worth about £4 in his possession.

Mr Robin Grey, QC, for the defence, told the court: "This girl's death is going to be a shadow over the head of Gottfried von Bismarck, probably for the rest of his life, although it cannot be said he was in any way responsible."

But the court's principal problem was alcohol, not drugs. He would feel so bad after a night's drinking that he would take amphetamine sulphate to help him to concentrate on his studies.

The magistrates earlier committed three other people for trial on drugs-related charges after Miss Channon's death.

They were Rose Johnston, aged 23, of Shellford House, near Farnford, Oxfordshire; Sebastian Guinness, aged 22, of Hereford Square, south-west London; and Paul Dunstan, aged 31, a jobless pop musician, of Dollis Hill, north London.

Mr Dunstan was remanded in custody until his trial at Oxford Crown Court. Miss Johnston and Mr Guinness were granted bail and ordered to surrender their passports.

Church of England Outlook bleak for rural life

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A bleak picture of life in rural England, with poor public transport, dwindling employment opportunities, high prices in shops and the elderly living in miserable isolation, is painted in a Church of England report published today.

One of its authors, the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Peter Nott, said yesterday the idea that people who lived in rural areas were well-heeled was "mere mythology".

The report argues for a full-scale inquiry by the church into conditions in rural areas, similar to the controversial survey of inner urban areas published last year. But the setting up of such an archbishop's commission is likely to be delayed for at least a year because of the cost, which could be £100,000.

The bishop and his co-author, Canon Anthony Russell, say they are hopeful about the future of the church in rural areas and point to "many signs of life and growth". But it is an area of national life, "in which the church currently finds itself struggling to maintain a presence and in which there is serious concern about the future".

According to the report, the main difficulties facing rural communities are:

- Population shift, with less wealthy families moving out and the more prosperous, with lifestyles centred on the city, moving in;
- "Unequal competition" for housing between poorer local people and the better off moving from the cities;
- Poor mobility, with 30 per cent of people without cars, particularly the elderly, forced to travel long distances for doctors' surgeries, shops, banks, social services;
- Many smaller villages have no shops or services;
- Shrinking employment in agriculture and other rural industries;
- Low wages, and widespread dependence on the fortunes of a single company;
- The closure of many village schools, and long-distance bussing of pupils;
- Village shop prices up to 20 per cent above urban supermarkets.

The report says that special problems are faced by young people and those starting families because of lack of employment opportunities and a shortage of suitable cheaper housing.

A Rural Strategy for the Church of England (Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1 5DP).

World Chess Championship Kasparov resigns adjourned game

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Leningrad

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, resigned the adjourned position of the 19th game of the World Chess Championship as expected without further play yesterday.

Anatoly Karpov's sealed move 41 was Kc4.

The score is now 9½ points each and five games remain to be played. Kasparov needs 2½ points to retain his title.

Karpov, the former world champion, had adjourned the 19th game in an overwhelming position. Karpov had Bishop and four Pawns against Knight and three.

Once again, Kasparov chose to defend with the Gruenfeld Variation but he varied his play from games 15 and 17 with the move 7...Na6 popularized by the Dutch Grandmaster, Prins.

Nevertheless, Kasparov's choice of that alternative appears to have come as no surprise to his opponent.

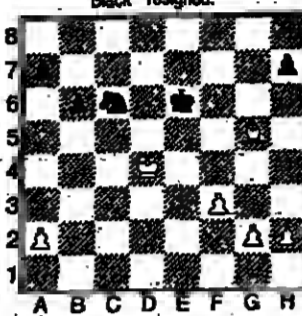
After almost an hour of thought, the world champion embarked on an unsound adventure with his 15th move. It seemed likely that this was based on a miscalculation. At move 18 Kasparov had probably planned to play...Ng3 with an apparently devastating attack against the White Queen. Kasparov must have overlooked in his original assessment that 19...Qb5 attacking the defended Black Rook would then be immediately decisive.

The result of Kasparov's play was that he lost Bishop for Rook without adequate compensation. Towards the

White: Karpov

| White | Black | White | Black |
|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1 d4 | Nf6 | 21 O-O | O-O |
| 2 c4 | e5 | 22 Nc4 | Bc2 |
| 3 Nc3 | c5 | 23 Bc2 | Bf7 |
| 4 Nf3 | Bg7 | 24 Bf4 | Bf5 |
| 5 Qb3 | d4 | 25 Bf4 | g5 |
| 6 Qc4 | O-O | 26 Bf4 | g5 |
| 7 e4 | Nb6 | 27 Bc5 | Bd1 |
| 8 Be2 | c5 | 28 Kf1 | Nd6 |
| 9 f5 | e6 | 29 Be7 | Nc5 |
| 10 O-O | exd5 | 30 Bc5 | Rd8 |
| 11 exd5 | Bf5 | 31 Bc5 | Rf8 |
| 12 Bf4 | Rd8 | 32 Rf5 | b6 |
| 13 Rd1 | Nd4 | 33 Bf4 | Ne7 |
| 14 Nf5 | Qf6 | 34 Bf6 | Rc5 |
| 15 Bf3 | O-O | 35 Bf6 | chRc5 |
| 16 Nc7 | Nd3 | 36 Bf6 | Nc3 |
| 17 Nc8 | Rc8 | 37 Kd2 | Nf7 |
| 18 Qc3 | Qd2 | 38 Kc3 | Ne6 |
| 19 Bc1 | Qd4 | 39 Kd4 | Ne6 |
| 20 Nc2 | Qd4 | 40 Kd4 | Ne6 |

Black resigned.



Postponed jail terms proposed

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

A waiting list of prisoners allowed to stay at home until called to serve their sentences was advocated yesterday by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, vice-president of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

"If the intake of prisoners were evenly spread throughout the year there would be no untoward problem for the prison service," he said.

Speaking at the League's annual conference in Oxford, Mr Blom-Cooper said the aim was to avoid overcrowding by reducing pressure on the system which, according to Home Office figures released yesterday, show that the prison population in England and Wales rose sharply last year reaching a new peak of 48,200.

There remained a disproportionate number of inmates from the ethnic minorities, with West Indians accounting for 8 per cent of the male prison population.

Under the idea put forward by the league, offenders sentenced to imprisonment would be sent to a letter ordering them to report on a certain date at a specified prison.

Mr Blom-Cooper said it was customary in continental European systems to postpone the start of a prison sentence and that it allowed jail administrators to spread the load of imprisonment over the whole year.

He said that if there were an intolerable build-up in the waiting list "it might be proper for the executive to issue a mass pardon for the offenders sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment".

For sentences of two years or less call-up could be suspended or sentences reduced in length, coupled with power to defer it up to a further six months.

Those sentenced to periods of imprisonment of more than two years would not be allowed any postponement of the execution of their sentence except with the consent of the court of trial.

Any person who failed to respond to a call-up would be liable to disciplinary action.

Mr John Baird, chairman of the Prison Officers Association, said in a paper that during the past 11 months, 1,108 staff had been assaulted by prisoners and 631 prisoners assaulted by fellow inmates, two prisoners have been murdered and there have been 1,700 reported drugs incidents.

"It is possible against this appalling background for a prisoner not to have a bath in a seven-day period, not have a clear change of underwear, nor to have a comb or a handkerchief."

Divis flats demolition sought

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

Divis flats, the notorious terrorist-ridden Warren of high-rise and deck-access flats which dominates the Roman Catholic Lower Falls area, only 600 yards from Belfast's city centre, should be demolished.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive announced yesterday that its board decided on Wednesday to amend its housing strategy in favour of demolition and replacement of Divis by conventional housing, rather than refurbishment.

About 480 families live in the complex compared with the 795 families for which it was designed.

Mr Richard Needham, the Northern Ireland Under Secretary of State for housing, said yesterday that he would respond as soon as possible.

Toll bridge workers held

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

Motorists were allowed across the Tarron toll bridge, near Plymouth, five yesterday after detectives arrested 16 bridge workers in connection with allegations of fraud.

Devon and Cornwall county council chiefs, who are responsible for running the bridge which links the two counties, decided to suspend toll charges after the employees were detained.

Hatton absent

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

Mr Derek Hatton, the Liverpool left-wing councillor, stayed away from an appeal hearing yesterday against his dismissal from his £11,600 a year post with Knowsley Borough Council.

He was represented by Mr Roger Bannister, the Knowsley Nalco branch secretary. The hearing is expected to last two days.

Acid gas cloud

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday launched an inquiry into a leak of concentrated sulphuric acid at a dye works which released an acid gas cloud over central Manchester on Wednesday night and put 19 people, including nine children, in hospital.

Player jailed

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

The Swinton rugby league player, Brian Higgins, aged 28, of Boyle Avenue, Orford, Warrington, who was caught in bed with a girl aged 13 by his wife, was jailed for six months at Warrington Crown Court yesterday after he admitted unlawful sexual intercourse.

Driver aged 9

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

Police called to the scene of an accident in Poole, Dorset, discovered a boy aged nine at the wheel of the car and his sister aged eight in the passenger seat. Police said because of their age no action could be taken against them.

Cement case

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

Twenty-five former employees of the Blue Circle company, Britain's biggest manufacturer of cement, were yesterday remanded on bail at West London Court after being charged with conspiring to steal cement worth £2 million.

Boeing is Nimrod's sole rival

By Rodney Cowton

The Ministry of Defence has eliminated five out of seven companies which have been competing to supply airframe early warning aircraft to the Royal Air Force.

After a competition which began last March the only two remaining companies are the American Boeing with the AWACS aircraft, which is in service with Nato and the United States Air Force, and the British company GEC with the troubled Nimrod project.

Last night Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced that both companies would be invited to submit "best and final bids" by early November.

The five companies which have been eliminated from the competition are the two leading American aircraft manufacturers, Grumman and Lockheed, and three much smaller British firms - British Aerospace, British Aerospace and MEL of Crawley.

France also requires aircraft for this role and has been for some time considering buying three AWACS. Lord Trefgarne said that French officials would be joining the British team's in evaluating both the Nimrod and AWACS bid.

Dockyard jobs at risk

By a Staff Reporter

Reductions in the amount of work needed to maintain the Royal Navy will lead to large-scale job losses at the Royal Dockyards at Rosyth and Devonport within two years, according to a government consultative document.

The Ministry of Defence is planning to introduce private commercial management into the dockyards next April, and is considering bids by six consortia for the job.

Workers at both dockyards are planning to strike today in protest against the reorganization and in support of their demand that they should continue to be employed within the Civil Service.

The document published yesterday relates to a form of organization which the ministry would implement only if the management contract bids were unsatisfactory.

Assessments of employment prospects under this form of organization suggest that 3,000 jobs would be lost at Devonport in the first two years and 700 at Rosyth.

In the longer term it is estimated that the number of jobs at Devonport would fall from 11,460 to about 6,340 in 1993-94, and at Rosyth from 5,900 to 4,680.

Teachers challenged on appraisal

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State in the Department of Education and Science, yesterday issued a challenge in teaching unions on appraisal.

She told educational inspectors and advisers meeting in Bristol: "We no longer think of appraisal as a mere tick-box exercise. It is a process which should be a part of the appraisal process. At last the thoroughness we have been hoping for since 1984 looks as though it is approaching teachers' doors."

Most of the people she had spoken to, she said, had no doubt that a scheme for assessing the performance of teachers would be up and running in schools before the end of the decade.

She dismissed as "rubbish" fears that any such scheme would be a back-door ploy designed to pay more money in some teachers and dismiss others.

She said the Coventry agreement signed by five of the six teaching unions was "clear on pay, but short on the firm details".

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is known to want more specific commitments on subjects such as cover for absent colleagues and teacher appraisal before releasing government money to fund the agreement, estimated to cost £2.9 billion.

One outcome of the Coventry deal on the appraisal scheme was to establish pilot schemes in a small number of local education authorities.

Last night, Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said the Government must be prepared to show its hand on the question of money before expecting any firm agreements on appraisal.

Union backing for Wapping deal

By Tim Jones

The 200 engineers dismissed by News International after taking strike action have been urged by their union leaders to accept the company's final settlement offer, which includes compensation totalling £58 million.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union is the first of the three print unions involved in the eight-month Wapping dispute to give unequivocal backing for the offer.

Members of the union's national executive took their decision after hearing a report from Mr Les Elliot, their Fleet Street officer, which recommended acceptance of the offer which lapses on October 8.

His summary was accepted by a senior official who said: "This appears to be the best deal we can get and we believe this is the last chance for a realistic settlement and will be urging the men to vote in favour."

He made it clear that, irrespective of what other unions decided, if his members voted to accept the package, the AEU would consider the dispute with the company to be at an end.

Mr Bill O'Neill, who has been leading News International's negotiating team in talks with the print unions, has made it clear that a requirement of the final offer is that each union agrees to recommend acceptance.

It had already been advised that the AEU and Sogat '82 were proceeding with a ballot of its members formerly employed by the company having met the condition of recommending the offer.

The result of the Sogat ballot is expected to be known on October 6, two days before the deadline expires.

The National Graphical Association has yet to decide on whether to hold a ballot and its leadership is under strong pressure from the London branch which is urging rejection.

Yesterday 2,500 print workers and supporters who attended a rally in London organized by Sogat '82 decided on a show of hands to urge the 5,500 workers involved in the dispute to reject the offer.

Radiation claim refuted

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ministry of Agriculture reacted angrily yesterday to reports that radiation levels in sheep in Cumbria and North Wales were higher now than when restrictions on their movement were imposed more than three months ago.

Suggestions that the radiation might be caused not by fallout from the Chernobyl explosion, but by emissions from nuclear power stations and from the Sellafield processing plant were dismissed as "absolutely unfounded".

Besides the Sellafield/Calder Hall complex in Cumbria, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, the Central Electricity Generating Board has two nuclear power stations at Welford and Trawsfynydd in North Wales.

When the ministry imposed its restrictions on June 20, six weeks after Chernobyl, it set a so-called "trigger" level of 10,000 becquerels a kilogram (A bequerel is a measurement of radioactive decay).

But it pointed out then that that was far below the level of 10,000 becquerels established by the International Atomic Energy Authority as constituting a health risk.

It said then that the highest level detected was 4,000 becquerels.

Figures produced at yesterday's meeting of the National Farmers' Union council in London, suggested that there had been no appreciable fall in radio-caesium levels and that in some cases they were still three or four times the trigger level.

The NFU criticized the ministry for its handling of the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

The Government rejected a demand from Cumbria County Council for tighter controls over discharges into the sea of radioactive material from the Sellafield plant. The council said it was worried about safety of the undersea pipes that carry waste from the plant.

Former union leader praises Tebbit laws

By a Staff Reporter

The former leader of the largest Civil Service union said yesterday that the trade union movement should be proud of its highest honour in Mr Norman Tebbit when the trade union movement should collectively agree to do so.

"I have just spent the last few years watching the trade union movement having to accept increased accountability to society."

"It is clear that the majority of people in Britain, including the majority of trade union members, felt this increased accountability was overdue."

Mr Graham forecast that the main legal changes, such as secret pre-strike ballots, would survive a change of Government.

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New dispute erupts over 'Monocled Mutineer'

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

A fresh dispute has erupted over BBC Television's series *The Monocled Mutineer* which will fuel the campaign for tighter controls on editorial policy.

It was disclosed yesterday that the BBC rejected the original play about the First World War mutiny by British troops at Etaples in northern France, because script readers were "unhappy about the mix between fact and fiction".

Mr Leslie Glazer, who wrote the original, said he "felt shattered" when he saw *The Monocled Mutineer* on the screen because it contained all the scenes to which the BBC had objected in his version.

The four-part series written by Alan Bleasdale has already been attacked by Conservative MPs for what they say is blatant left-wing bias.

Mr Glazer has complained to MPs and to the BBC that, in spite of years of research into the subject, he was never asked for technical advice on the series or given an explanation as to why there had been a change in editorial policy.

A feature film of his script had been planned in 1972, but it was shelved when a hacker dropped out.

Mr Glazer twice submitted the screenplay to the BBC, in 1974 and 1982. In 1982 he received a letter from Mr Peter Kosminsky, special assistant to the head of plays, drama and television.

The first reason he gave for rejection was the department's depleted budget.

The second reason given by Mr Kosminsky was: "Our (script) readers are unhappy about the mix between fact and fiction."

Mr Glazer has written to Mr Neil Hatton, Conservative MP for Tatten, complaining about the BBC's "unethical attitude".

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Bar Council may ease rules to allow direct access to barristers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals that the Bar should change its professional code of conduct to allow some clients to brief a barrister direct without going through a solicitor are shortly to be put before the Bar Council.

A committee of the council under Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC, is expected to recommend that other professionals, such as accountants, should be allowed direct access to barristers in cases before certain tribunals.

If adopted, the proposal would mean the first, if limited, incursion into one of the two main restrictive practices which characterize the legal profession.

By tradition a client cannot approach a barrister direct; he must go through a solicitor. There are very few exceptions to the rule, such as where a prisoner in the dock in a crown court wants to speak with counsel.

Yesterday Mr Brian Singleton-Green, parliamentary and law committee secretary of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said his mem-

bers would welcome such a proposal.

"Many of our members, perhaps experts in taxation or VAT, need to get counsel's opinion for a case that may not even be going to come to court, to support what they intend to do."

"They probably understand more than the solicitor who simply has to act as a pointless intermediary and does not add anything to what is being done."

Solicitors asked for ethnic details

All solicitors in England and Wales are being asked by the Law Society to give details of their ethnic origins when applying for their practising certificates this year.

The exercise, approved by the Law Society Council, is the first step in a policy of promoting equal opportunities in the profession.

It is intended to be a "one-off" with the aim of taking a "snapshot" of the practising profession as at October 1986 to assess its ethnic make-up.

Spam and chips for GI bride reunion



Mr and Mrs Albert Couch at Gatwick yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor) and in 1946 on honeymoon in Southampton.

By Robin Young

About 250 GI brides who sailed from Britain in 1946 for a new life in the United States and Canada have returned to Southampton, the port they departed from, for a sentimental reunion.

In Southampton Guildhall, an air raid shelter canteen has been re-created as a rendezvous point for the brides. The welcome party was helped along with gifts of chocolates and nylon and a meal of spam and chips.

Today many of the brides will return to Tidworth, the barracks where many were "processed" and swore allegiance to the US flag before being able to join their husbands. In attendance will be Mrs Annabel Jarvis, who conducted many of the original interviews.

At least one GI bride, Mrs Marguerite Couch, formerly of Crouch End, north London, now of Redmond, Washington, is back in Britain for the first time since she set sail to join her husband, Albert.

The brides will also attend a garden party at Broadlands, the Hampshire home of the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma, dance to the music of the Herb Miller Orchestra, led by Glenn Miller's brother, and attend a concert by Dame Vera Lynn.

Family's fourth cot death

Suffocation query on baby

A second inquest jury sat yesterday on the orders of a High Court judge to determine whether a baby aged seven months had been suffocated.

The cot death tragedy to be investigated was that of a baby who died in 1978 when she was eight months old and her son, Ian, born a year later, survived for just 19 days.

The couple's third child, Andrew, was monitored in hospital for a month after his birth in February 1981, but he died just two weeks after being allowed home.

When Mrs Bithell became pregnant a fourth time, the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, a charitable organization formed in 1971 by bereaved parents, put her in touch with Professor Hamish Simpson, head of paediatrics at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Mrs Bithell left her home in Wrexham and moved into a flat at the hospital and once Adam was born his condition was monitored round the clock by machinery flown in from the United States.

Once hock at the family home in Clarence Road, Wrexham, Adam slept in his cot on a special baby alarm mattress which monitored body movements.

Mrs Virginia Bithell walked from the well of the court and sat just three feet from the jury to give her evidence in a clear, unemotional voice. On August 21 after 9 am when the baby started to become sleepy she carried him upstairs and laid him in his cot on his stomach.

She returned downstairs after switching on the baby alarm and did housework with one ear cocked to an intercom which would pick up the cries of the baby. After 20 minutes the baby started to whimper and she went back upstairs and nursed him to sleep again.

Minutes later the alarm sounded again. "I had been told in the hospital not to panic. I was calling his name but there was no response."

The inquest was adjourned until today when Dr Wayne will give evidence for a second time.

Portfolio Gold - Sons will share in winnings

A Birmingham housewife is the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000. Mrs Linda Ward, aged 42, from Harborne in Birmingham, said she could not believe her luck.

"I used to be about 10 numbers out every day. I just could not believe it when I realized that my overall total matched The Times' Portfolio Gold dividend."

Mrs Ward, who has two sons, said that she would give some of the prize money to them.

"But as we are moving house soon, most of the winnings will go towards re-decorating the new house," she said.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Mrs Ward, who will share the money with her sons.

Morley guilty of theft

Stephen Morley, was yesterday convicted at Derby Crown Court, of stealing £10,000 given to him to invest by a client, and of two charges of attempting to obtain a total of £2,400.

Sentence was deferred for reports on Morley, aged 23, of College Road, Dulwich, south-east London, who had pleaded not guilty to all three charges. The £10,000 was repaid by his parents, Eric and Julia Morley.

Rugby PC jailed for biting off ear

A policeman was jailed for six months yesterday for biting off part of the ear of a rival officer during a Welsh inter-force rugby match.

Richard Johnson was told by Judge Rutter at Cardiff Crown Court: "The violence you used was a dreadful example of football hooliganism."

Johnson, a Cardiff police wing forward, who has been suspended, sank his teeth into the right ear lobe of Mr Keith Jones, aged 40, the Newport police lock forward, during a match at the Gwent Constabulary sports ground in Cwmbran last November.

The court was told that Johnson, of Hurford Street, Maes-y-Coed, Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan, had to be restrained by fellow officers as he and Mr Jones exchanged punches.

During the trial, Mr Jones

said he felt Johnson bite right through his ear lobe as the pair clashed after a line-out near the Newport 22-metre line.

In his defence, Johnson claimed that Mr Jones struck the first blow, punching him in the head after the line-out. Johnson said he could not have bitten through the lobe because he was wearing a gumshield.

Dr David Whittaker, forensic dentistry scientist, told the jury of tests he had carried out on the ear of a dead pig which was similar in structure to the human ear.

He found he was able to tear off the lobe with a single wrench, even when wearing a gumshield.

On his report yesterday he said that the prosecution failed to prove that PC Jones "twice punched his opponent and gouged his eye." In fact it was Johnson who had alleged this.

Aids risk warning to travellers

By Jill Sherman

British travellers to central Africa may be advised to refuse unscreened blood transfusions under new guidance on Aids shortly to be issued by the Department of Health.

The guidance will be included in a revised version of the Department of Health booklet, *Protect Your Health Abroad*, which provides information on vaccinations and general health measures.

The advice, which will include guidance on safe sex, will apply to travellers visiting countries with a high prevalence of Aids such as Africa, South-east Asia, America and western Europe.

But the Department of Health has now under pressure from medical experts to include warnings about receiving untested blood.

The warnings come after reports of the rapid spread of the disease among heterosexuals in central Africa where in some countries 15 per cent of young adults carry the Aids related virus, HIV.

Dr Tony Pinching, a consultant at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and an Aids specialist, said: "I would advise any travellers to these countries, needing blood to check where it had come from and to see whether it was essential to his or her health care."

In some circumstances after a minor accident, he said it might be more practical to fly home or to refuse a blood transfusion.

Dr Pinching said that one of his patients, who was living in central Africa had been attacked by bandits during a raid. "She was given four units of blood and now has the Aids virus."

Luton to meet league on competition ban

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Luton Town will today meet the Football League about its expulsion from the Littlewoods Cup, but the First Division club will not relax its ban on visiting supporters in its attempt to beat hooliganism.

Mr Philip Carter, the Football League president, who telephoned Mr David Evans, the Luton chairman, yesterday, said: "We were delighted to hear that Luton are prepared to re-examine their position and bring an element of flexibility into the discussions."

The Football League management committee will meet Mr Evans at their headquarters at Lytham St Annes.

The meeting was arranged during talks yesterday between Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, and Football League and Football Association officials.

Unlike the league, the Littlewoods Cup rules state that 25 per cent of tickets must be offered to the visiting club.

A Portsmouth football supporter has lost a £200 claim against Oxford United in Oxford County Court for breach of contract. Mr Michael Walker, aged 39, of The Keep, Portchester, Hampshire, claimed the club sold him seats at its Manor Ground where his view was impaired by an anti-hooligan fence.

Air passenger record defies the terrorists

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

More than six million passengers passed through Britain's seven main airports in August, making it the busiest month for air travel.

In spite of airline fears that the fall in the number of Americans visiting Britain would affect them hardest at the height of summer, the number of people travelling rose sharply.

Traffic rose by 4.6 per cent overall, with Heathrow, Gatwick and Edinburgh all setting records. But the boom in the number of passengers led to congestion at peak times.

The British Airports Authority said a record 122,117 passengers passed through Heathrow's four terminals on August 31.

Passengers using Heathrow to fly on United States routes fell by more than 30 per cent in May, June and July compared with the same months in 1985.

Smokestack cities set out to woo tourists

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A consortium of 13 English cities, most of them best known for their "smokestack" industries, is mounting a £250,000 promotional campaign to bring in visiting holidaymakers on package tours.

The Great English Cities Marketing Group yesterday took a leaf out of the book of the big tour operators for foreign package holidays and brought out a glossy 32-page brochure, put together by National Holidays, part of Pleasurama which is one of Britain's top six package holiday companies.

Nine out of 10 travel agents around Britain, including all the key chains, have agreed to put the brochure on their shelves.

Mr Brian Redhead, the broadcaster, was brought in to support the launch, which is backed by the English Tourist Board.

He said: "The public's perception of our great indus-

trial, commercial, and maritime cities is seriously flawed. They are vibrant, lively and exciting places."

The cities include Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford, Coventry, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton and Stoke-on-Trent. Some others, such as Sheffield and Hull, may join subsequently.

In the new brochure leisure seekers are told about Manchester's urban heritage park, the transport museums of the "motor city" of Coventry, Liverpool's waterfront renaissance, Stoke's famous pottery and the heritage attractions of Bradford which so far has been one of the most successful among old industrial areas in attracting tourists.

Cash for the venture raised by the cities has been matched pound for pound by the English Tourist Board.

Health warning on musical strains

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Musicians are given a health warning today that too much practice can lead to physical imperfection. The discordant note struck in *The Lancet* concerns what was called musicians' cramp in the last century but is now known as overuse syndrome, involving pain and loss of playing ability.

The syndrome can run riot through an entire orchestra, affecting strings, woodwind, keyboard, brass and percussion. The artistic agonies can be felt in the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, shoulder and neck.

"Overuse syndrome in musicians seems an unfair reward for zeal and application. It occurs in the great and the famous, in the aspiring student and in the orchestral musician," Mr Hunter Fry, an Australian researcher, reports in the journal.

In a survey of eight symphony orchestras - three American, four Australian - a third one British - the prevalence of the condition was more than 50 per cent, he reports.

The only hope for gifted players with severe problems is a radical rest programme in

which the musician is forbidden to indulge in any pain-inducing activities, from opening doors to turning on water taps.

Getting back in tune should start with just one minute's practice twice a day, and be built up gradually.

To avoid such ordeals, players should limit their practising periods to perhaps 25 minutes and take a five-minute break. "The musician will notice that the muscles are more responsive after the break, so the quality of the practice will be better."

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| 40 | 44 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 |
| 45 | 49 | 2,922 | 2,922 | 2,922 | 2,922 | 2,922 | 2,922 |
| 50 | 54 | 2,907 | 2,907 | 2,907 | 2,907 | 2,907 | 2,907 |
| 55 | 59 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 |
| 60 | 64 | 2,877 | 2,877 | 2,877 | 2,877 | 2,877 | 2,877 |
| 65 | 69 | 2,862 | 2,862 | 2,862 | 2,862 | 2,862 | 2,862 |
| 70 | 74 | 2,847 | 2,847 | 2,847 | 2,847 | 2,847 | 2,847 |
| 75 | 79 | 2,832 | 2,832 | 2,832 | 2,832 | 2,832 | 2,832 |

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| 35 | 39 | 7,646 | 7,646 | 7,646 | 7,646 | 7,646 | 7,646 |
| 40 | 44 | 7,631 | 7,631 | 7,631 | 7,631 | 7,631 | 7,631 |
| 45 | 49 | 7,616 | 7,616 | 7,616 | 7,616 | 7,616 | 7,616 |
| 50 | 54 | 7,601 | 7,601 | 7,601 | 7,601 | 7,601 | 7,601 |
| 55 | 59 | 7,586 | 7,586 | 7,586 | 7,586 | 7,586 | 7,586 |
| 60 | 64 | 7,571 | 7,571 | 7,571 | 7,571 | 7,571 | 7,571 |
| 65 | 69 | 7,556 | 7,556 | 7,556 | 7,556 | 7,556 | 7,556 |
| 70 | 74 | 7,541 | 7,541 | 7,541 | 7,541 | 7,541 | 7,541 |
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Withdrawal from nuclear power gets full backing

The planned phasing out of all nuclear power, an end to the commissioning of further nuclear installations, and an immediate start on the decommissioning of Magnox power stations were backed overwhelmingly by the Liberal Assembly at Eastbourne yesterday.

But delegates agreed in the energy debate to amendments making clear they were referring to power stations using nuclear fission (splitting the atom) and would allow a continuing and increasing

Anyone thinking of buying British Gas shares should know that under an Alliance government he or she would not be allowed to get a windfall profit by exploiting the consumer, Mr Malcolm Bruce, the party's energy spokesman, said during question time on the environment.

commitment to research and development of generating electricity by nuclear fusion (joining atoms).

The agreed motion also proposed:

- Programmes for energy conservation and renewable sources of energy;
- Construction of the Severn barrage and combined heat and power stations;
- The replacement of Nirex and all bodies charged with the disposal of nuclear waste with one public corporation with a duty to protect the environment;
- The abandonment of present plans for shallow burial of nuclear waste and the renunciation of marine dumping;
- The public disclosure of research findings, policy options and public inquiries in all areas affected by proposals for disposal of nuclear waste, with objectors receiving public funding.

Mr George Ferguson, parliamentary candidate for Bristol West, who moved the motion, strongly criticized Lord Marshall of Goring, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, as "Maggie's man, prejudiced and obsessive".

"He is the man who treats all objectors to nuclear power as fools. He has lost his right to claim to be an objective scientist. We should give him his notice now."

Mr Ferguson said he was not proposing a highly accelerated phasing out of nuclear power stations. They needed a responsible, planned phasing out over plenty of time. But the decommissioning of Magnox power stations must start as early as possible.

Dr Margaret Joachim, parliamentary candidate for Epsom and Ewell, moving the amendments, said nuclear fission was now at the research stage. But, unlike nuclear fusion, it did not produce vast amounts of radioactive waste.

Mr Bill Bradshaw, of Wantage, said nuclear power was the only source ultimately capable of replacing fossil fuels. It was probably less environmentally damaging than burning fossil fuels.

Without nuclear power prices of fossil fuels would rise and poor countries would go without electricity.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon, said the claims of the nuclear industry to be clean and to produce electricity more cheaply than any other means were not true. He called for a moratorium on the further development of nuclear power.

Mr Alan Sherwell, chairman of the energy panel, said those favouring nuclear power argued that it would be needed in the Third World. But those countries needed small, localized energy sources, which were precisely the alternatives the party wished to develop in this country.

Lord Ezra, party spokesman on energy in the House of Lords and a former chairman of the National Coal Board, said discussion of a comprehensive energy policy did not go wide enough.

A clear energy policy should be based on securing maximum efficiency of energy in use, and the minimum adverse impact on the environment.

He advocated setting up a department responsible for energy efficiency with the additional task of ensuring that adequate heating standards were available to the aged, infirm and the poor.

Mr Trevor Jones, parliamentary candidate for West Dorset, said there was no totally safe method of producing electricity. It would be folly for the Alliance prematurely to close down an industry.



Mr Alan Beith (left), Mr Simon Hughes and Mr Malcolm Bruce were among the speakers in yesterday's debates (Photographs: John Manning and Harry Kerr).

POLICY DOCUMENT

Getting the Alliance's act together

The Liberal Party assembly yesterday considered the joint Alliance consultative document, *Partnership for Progress*, made clear there was lots of it they liked and lots they did not, got assurances there would be further scope for more suggestions, and finally carried a motion welcoming it. It was part of the process, as one speaker put it, of the Alliance getting its act together.

The reservations of the assembly were politely expressed in an amendment from the Association of Liberal Councillors that the draft of the "consultative" document should reflect more clearly the

politics and principles of the Alliance on the ground, particularly towards meeting the urgent social and economic needs of urban communities. That was carried as well as an instruction to the party's policy committee to seek agreement with the Social Democratic Party on a revised final document.

The motion that the assembly agreed stated that the document should form the basis for the policies on which the next Alliance programme for government would be drawn up. The assembly approved the policy committee, in the light of the debate, to seek agreement with the SDP

on a final document for publication.

Despite the reservations expressed during the debate, there was considerable praise at the progress made in forging Alliance policy.

Mr Alan Watson, parliamentary candidate for Richmond and Barnes, was particularly loudly applauded when he declared that the single most urgent challenge to the Alliance at the moment was "Get your act together".

The public recognized "the decline of the economy, the shrinking of the social services, the erosion of tolerance and rise of violence. It deeply disturbs them. They want the

Alliance to work; they want it to win."

Mr Richard Pine, parliamentary candidate for Broadgreens and deputy leader of the Alliance group on Liverpool City Council, said those fighting inner-city seats wanted to see the part of the document on the inner cities strengthened to reflect their experience.

Mr David Penabazogian, MP for Truro, said an incomes strategy was important. It was no good people expressing concern about the poor, unemployment and the lack of training if at the same time they made pay deals of 8, 9 or 10 per cent.

WOMEN

Righting balance of power

The most unjust aspect of the old centres of power, wealth and influence was their systematic discrimination against women, Mrs Julie Horton, a member of the Liberal working group on the status of women, said when she successfully moved approval of an Alliance document, *Freedom and Choice for Women*.

Among its proposals were a call for equal treatment of women in tax and benefit systems.

Mrs Emma Morgan, Somerset and Frome, said there were women doctors and judges but even then they did not get the response of their male counterparts.

Mrs Jobs Aleksander, of Haringey, said the document was a betrayal of all mothers and grandmothers who had fought and struggled for equality. It was bland, full of platitudes and contained not enough action.

FARMING

Assembly fights for the countryside vote

A wide-ranging policy motion designed to enable the Alliance to capture the rural vote was passed by the assembly.

Mr Christopher Wainwright, who came so close to capturing West Derbyshire in the by-election in May, reminded Liberals that the Alliance was second to the Conservatives in 272 parliamentary constituencies and that the Labour Party did not hold a rural seat in the whole of England.

He was one of a procession of speakers who condemned the decline in rural life under the present Government.

Considerable concern was expressed about the plight of farmers who found themselves in considerable debt and the banks came under fire for being insufficiently helpful in enabling young people to start in farming.

Mr John Barnett, parliamentary candidate for Torridge and West Devon, offered strong support for the motion's proposal for an agricultural bank. He said it would help farmers who were on the interest rate treadmill and enable new entrants to get into farming.

Mr Paul Sample, editor of *Liberal News* and son of a Wiltshire farmer, said that, although the price of agricultural land had fallen sharply, it was harder for young farmers and new entrants to get financial backing.

Mr Richard Livesey, MP for Brecon and Radnor and party spokesman on agriculture, successfully moved the policy motion, which stated that eligibility for price support must be limited and set out how the emphasis of EEC policy could be shifted and how savings could be used. Various ways of increasing opportunities for young farmers were advocated.

An amendment designed to encourage large farms to release land to let as small start-up units was carried.

Mr Jack Ainslie, chairman of the Liberal agricultural panel and chairman of Wiltshire County Council, strongly argued against that idea, however, and the assembly backed him by rejecting it.

He said it would be illogical to suggest using something that the party wanted to be abolished.

Mr Livesey said policy on commodity prices could not be open-ended and they must be prepared to give small and medium-size farms direct income support.

Mr Steven Morris, parliamentary candidate for Leominster, advocated grants and low-interest loans for the creation of viable farm units.

Mrs Linda Seale, parliamentary candidate for Devizes, said their policy represented a partnership between government, farmer and consumer.

There was laughter when she said that for the grain farmers of East Anglia, crop rotation meant barley followed by barley followed by a world cruise.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sanction motion wins support

The assembly, in an emergency motion moved by Mr Alan Beith, MP, its foreign affairs spokesman, reaffirmed support for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, and its belief that sanctions presented the last opportunity for peaceful change.

The motion regretted that the meeting between Mr Oliver Tambo, ANC president, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, failed to change "the obdurate and immoral intransigence of the Government in blocking moves for effective mandatory sanctions to isolate South Africa".

Mr Beith said Mrs Margaret Thatcher had taken every possible step to thwart or undermine all the attempts so far made to apply real pressure on the South African Government.

The European Community was dithering over a very limited package of sanctions and it was a cause of distress to Liberals that Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, with whom they had worked for many years in the cause of European unity, should be the spokesman for German government opposition to a ban on coal imports from South Africa.

Mr Jim Forder, Nuffield College, Oxford University, and Union of Liberal Students, said that destroying the South African economy would lead only to increased unemployment among blacks and that would mean starvation.

Mr Nicholas Winch, Bristol East, said that the EEC sanctions package was nothing more than a token gesture.

Mr Peter Wells, Kensington, unsuccessfully sought reference back of the emergency motion to the party council. He said the emergency motion was bland and anodyne.

Mr Beith said serious issues were at stake on which they must reaffirm their commitment. Action was needed now, and they could not simply wait for Liberal Party procedures.

An emergency motion carried by the assembly regretted the decision and supported "the brave attempt by Luton Town Football Club to eliminate the violence which has marred the good name of football in Luton and nationally". It noted that the Luton experiment had been totally successful.

Mr David Franks, a Luton borough councillor, said the background to the issue was the urban terrorism that took place every Saturday in areas around grounds.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

David Steel can be certain of a warm, probably a rapturous, reception when he speaks to the assembly today. Having thrown him into the ditch earlier in the week, the delegates will now want to reassure him that there was nothing personal in it. But the applause will not be able to drown the knowledge that he is facing the most severe political challenge since he became leader of the party.

The challenge is not to his position as leader but to the purpose for which he holds the leadership. Those MPs who undermined his strategy with effective speeches in the defence debate, Simon Hughes and Michael Meadowcroft, have not in fact enhanced their standing in the party as might have been expected.

They may have further endeared themselves to the radical rank and file, but they have lost ground among their parliamentary colleagues and candidates. Many candidates who were sitting in the next House of Commons slipping away. There is nobody who could threaten Mr Steel's hold on office in this Parliament even if he wished to do so.

Ambition for a share of power

But just to be Liberal leader has never been enough for Mr Steel. He has always had the ambition of leading the party back from the political wilderness to a share of power, and this ambition has received a number of setbacks this week.

It is not only that the gap between Liberals and Social Democrats has been widened. The fitness of the Liberal Party for serious political combat has been brought into question and Mr Steel's personal authority has been diminished.

His first task today should be to get about restoring that authority. This matters for two reasons.

The political appeal of the Alliance rests more on either Liberal or Social Democratic activists are happy to acknowledge upon the personalities of the two Davids. Both of them may from time to time irritate members of both parties - and Dr Owen is especially prone to upset Liberals - but if either of them is cut down to size too much by his own followers the Alliance will suffer.

The other reason why Mr Steel needs to reestablish his grip is at least as important. The Liberals are engaged in an extraordinarily complex exercise. Unlike the Conservatives or Labour, they do not simply have to determine that policy and ask the electorate to vote them into office.

They have to coordinate policy with their Social Democratic allies, to persuade the electorate to support them even if there is no realistic prospect of the two of them forming a government on their own and at the same time to position themselves for difficult negotiations in a hung Parliament that is the summit of their reasonable ambitions.

Such an operation could be conducted successfully only by a party acting as an effective fighting unit. The problem with the Liberals is that they so often behave like a political debating society. They tend to congratulate themselves on the quality of their discussions, even when the wisdom of the decisions leaves something to be desired.

Debating society not enough

There is undeniable charm in such an attitude. But political battles, especially complex battles which require the capacity to manoeuvre under pressure, are won by parties than debating societies.

As a first step, the Liberal MPs are likely to impose a measure of collective responsibility upon themselves soon after Parliament resumes. The worst travails of this week would have been avoided if such a rule had been in operation by now.

But organizational changes will not be enough. Mr Steel will have to strike a careful balance if he is to assert his leadership without appearing undemocratic and a bad loser.

The Liberals will not recover from this disastrous week unless Mr Steel recovers control of the party, and he will not recover that control unless he is more prepared to spell out the brutal realities of the choices before it.



Your genial host, Mr Alan Watson: "Get your act together".

Steel prepares a rough ride

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Liberal pressure groups were engaged yesterday in a battle for Mr David Steel's ear as he prepared his crucial conference speech for today.

The party's president-elect, Mr Des Wilson, was urging Mr Steel to be conciliatory and to respect the feelings of the party showed in rejecting his line on defence. So were the Association of Liberal Councillors and the candidates' association.

But Mr Steel was preparing a rough ride for the party and was prepared to shed a few passengers in his determination to sweep away the muddle and achieve some clarity.

What was clear in the continuing fallout from the public relations shambles of the defence debate was that this was probably the last Liberal Assembly of its kind.

The defence dispute is likely to have profound consequences for Mr Steel's leadership of the party and for the controversy over a post-election merger with the SDP.

Complaints were flying thick and fast from Liberal activists that, while they respect their leader's ability and public appeal, he is out of touch with his members.

Now that there are 2,000 people instead of 200 turning up to the Liberal Assembly they cannot afford to allow

Steel prepares a rough ride

just any party member who wants to, and who can find the £18 registration fee (only £5 for the unemployed), to vote in a crucial debate.

Mr Steel and his chief whip, Mr David Alton, are now to impose collective responsibility on their fellow MPs. There are also plans to change the whole structure of the assembly, to make those who attend it representative of the party nationwide.

Mr Steel is attracted by the idea of having his party, like the SDP, pass policy motions that are the result of deliberation by expert committees.

But it is all much too late. And Liberal activists point out that if the party chiefs are to change the ways of the assembly then they will insist that the party leader should lose his right of veto over policy.

Today's agenda

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Mr Paul Tyler, party chairman, will address the assembly at its closing session this afternoon. Debates today will be on the Liberal youth campaign, the relationship between central and local government, penal policy, and local Liberals.

Assembly reports by Alan Wood, Anthony Hodges and Amanda Haigh

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Success for Gorbachov initiative

Resumption of border talks adds to thaw in Sino-Soviet relations

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Attempts to heal the 25-year rift between the two largest communist states received a significant boost yesterday with the announcement that talks on border disputes between China and the Soviet Union are to be resumed after a break of nearly nine years.

The decision to reconvene next year talks about an area which prompted clashes between the Chinese and Soviet armies in 1969 and 1970 was taken during a meeting at the United Nations between the two Foreign Ministers, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze and Mr Wu Xueqian.

Official reports of the meeting said that the two ministers had held extensive talks on normalizing relations and on international issues. The meeting was seen as fresh evidence of the Sino-Soviet diplomatic thaw prompted by a keynote speech delivered in July by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin leader.

Senior Western diplomats said last night that the decision to resume talks on normalizing relations and on international issues broke down in June 1978 when they broke down as a result of the bitter ideological dispute between China and the Soviet Union.

Until Mr Gorbachov's July initiative, in a speech delivered in Vladivostok, he offered the

along the Chinese shore, thus claiming a number of islands in the river for itself. China's grievances were increased by the fact that the Ussuri river, on the eastern frontier, is regarded as its territory.

The border talks are seen by quickly changed course, detaching pieces of bank to form new islands which Moscow observers of Sino-Soviet relations as further quickening the pace of rapprochement between the two communist giants. This had already increased significantly earlier this month with the successful visit to Peking by Mr Nikolai Talyzin, a Soviet Deputy Prime Minister.

For a number of years, the Chinese have listed three main obstacles to improved relations with the Soviet Union: the continuing Soviet presence in Afghanistan, military concentrations along the Chinese border, and Soviet backing for the Vietnamese forces in Cambodia.

Recent Soviet moves are seen by observers as having shown willingness to address the first two of these. Earlier this month, Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, said he would agree to a summit with Mr Gorbachov, if the Soviet Union took "solid steps" towards getting Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

Although such a move is regarded as difficult, Soviet sources have hinted that a Sino-Soviet summit remains high on Mr Gorbachov's list of priorities.

The signs of an impending Sino-Soviet thaw have caused some concern in US diplomatic circles, but no Western observers here expect a return to the closeness developed in the 1950s.

Howe tribute to Nato

New York — Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that encouraging signs of movement in US-Soviet arms control talks were a tribute to Nato solidarity in the face of Moscow's persistent efforts to drive a wedge between the US and its European partners (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

Effective transatlantic consultations had contributed to

the failure of Moscow's strategy despite the Soviet Union's tenacious attempts to mastermind a rift, he said.

This had left the Russians no choice but to move from the propaganda arena to the negotiating table, he told a press conference here after almost a week of United Nations debate dominated by relations between East and West.

Comecon meeting applauded

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The completion of three days of talks this week between the EEC and Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic organization, was hailed in Brussels yesterday as a further step towards reducing East-West tensions.

"Given the current East-West problems, anything — like the Stockholm agreement — which promotes dialogue — which promotes dialogue is welcome," one EEC official said. But Commission sources warned that the EEC was only at the start of lengthy and complex contacts with Comecon and was "proceeding with caution".

As the EEC negotiating team, led by John Maslen, head of the EEC Department for Relations with Eastern Europe, returned from Geneva, it emerged that one of the main obstacles to agreement between the trading blocs is the EEC's insistence that any joint political declaration must include a clause referring to West Berlin as an integral part of West Germany.

But officials stressed that the status of Berlin was only one sticking point and that the Twelve remain committed to any agreement likely to limit the EEC's right to deal with East European nations on a bilateral basis.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC Commissioner for External Relations, maintains that Comecon is dominated by Moscow, has no common commercial policy and is not comparable to the EEC in aims or structure.

Mr de Clercq, who held a series of talks with East European ministers at the Gati conference in Uruguay and at the United Nations this week, yesterday praised Comecon's "positive attitude to the normalization process", but stressed the EEC's bilateral ties in Eastern Europe.

An exchange of letters on this point between Mr de Clercq and Mr Vyacheslav Sychov, the Comecon Secretary General, has only partially satisfied Brussels.

The EEC-Comecon dialogue, inaugurated under Mr Mikhail Gorbachov after years in the doldrums, could eventually lead to Soviet diplomatic recognition of the EEC.

Chernobyl aftermath

Experts warned of 'cosmetic' treaties

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Vienna

The Italian delegate told the world's most powerful nations yesterday that their attempts at developing standards to make nuclear power safer was more of a cosmetic exercise than a practical proposition.

The conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, called to devise a way to avoid any repetition of the Chernobyl disaster, has proposed two conventions. And the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China, with other countries, have agreed to sign them.

But Signor Malerio Zanone, Italy's Minister for Industry, pointed the conference to what he called "glaring deficiencies" in the proposed conventions.

The first treaty should ensure better early warning to neighbouring countries after any nuclear accident; the second would call on mutual

Greens hold their own nuclear safety rally

Vienna — One of Vienna's most famous landmarks, the giant ferris wheel made famous in the film *The Third Man*, was draped yesterday with a banner calling for the international abandonment of nuclear power (Pearce Wright writes).

Significantly, Austria is the first industrial country to reverse its nuclear energy policy. The Government signed an order yesterday for the dismantling of its controversial nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf, completed in 1978 at a cost of £520 million. It was never used.

But the event in the Prater carnival park was to publicize the "other nuclear conference" in Vienna this week, a special assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The park meeting was arranged by an alliance of the "green" organizations to allow the "human voice" of the casualties of nuclear energy to be heard.

It is in the form of a tribunal at which the "victims" of nuclear power tell of the trauma which, they say, goes

assistance to speed the clean-up.

The experience of Chernobyl fallout to northern Italy lies behind Signor Zanone's doubts.

He is concerned that the judgment on whether a release is likely to affect another country is made where the accident has occurred: the person who caused the pollution decides whether to give notice of the incident.

Signor Zanone suggested that precisely those circumstances occurred when the Soviet Union at first decided not to tell their neighbours that an accident had happened.

The Americans are unwilling to notify any leak from nuclear test sites, and the Soviet Union is pledged to support the conventions, but on terms which seem to exclude independent inspection of their sites.

unrecognized at formal conferences dominated by technical detail.

Mr Leif Dunfield, from Lapland, told of the impact on his family and on a culture more than 1,000 years old by the public health measures made necessary by the fallout of Chernobyl.

He believes the call of reindeer being carried out because of the risk of unacceptably high levels of radiation in their meat could at worst cause the herd to become extinct. At best, it would take more than a generation for them to recover.

The plight of African miners in the world's largest uranium operation, at the Rossing Mine in Namibia, was related by Mr Sackey Amunyea, a former truck driver at Rossing.

Mr Oscar Temaru, a former customs officer in French Pacific territories and now mayor of a small town in Tahiti, described the slow erosion of the use of the Mururoa Atoll by the French for weapon tests.

towns on Mt Eina's slopes. The airport was closed because there were fears that aircraft would skid on the slippery surface.

Mr John Murray, a British volcanologist leading a study group on Mt Eina, said last night: "I have never experienced anything like Wednesday night. Volcanic bombs were reaching heights between two and three miles, and at a mile and a half away we could feel the heat."

Unlike Mr Nagy, who was executed in 1958, Mr Donath survived the revolution, did time in jail and emerged as a useful consultant between the fringe opposition and more cautious reform economists.

Among the gravestide eulogies there was a particularly telling one from a dissident — "We hope that the time has now passed when funerals are the only occasion one can speak freely."

"Well, yes, that time has



A policeman grabbing Frédéric Oriach as he tries to declare his innocence to journalists in the Jardin du Luxembourg.

Bombing suspect seized in Paris park

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Frédéric Oriach, a suspected leader of the extreme-left group Action Directe, was arrested yesterday as he was about to hold a press conference in the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.

The day before, five of his friends, all of French nationality, had been arrested on the orders of the examining magistrate investigating the recent bombings in Paris. The five, who were said to be "able to bring aid and assistance to terrorists", were still in police custody last night.

It had been reported that M Oriach, who was released from prison in April after having served five years for membership of an "association of

criminals", was on the run. It was to prove that he had in no way gone into hiding that he promptly called the public press conference.

He was jumped on by plainclothes policemen and roughly dragged away, with a bery of journalists and cameramen in hot pursuit still bombarding him with questions.

M Oriach shouted: "I'm being used as a scapegoat because the police are incapable of doing their work. I am a perfectly legal, pro-Palestinian militant."

"I am in no way clandestine. The police knew where to find me. I have always been against all indiscriminate terrorist attacks."

He has always maintained that he is not a member of Action Directe, which has

links with the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (Far), the group believed to be behind the Paris bombings. But there is no doubt that he is a founder of an extreme-left group which was to become one of the main constituents of Action Directe.

M Denis Baudouin, the Prime Minister's spokesman, said yesterday that the Government was still convinced that the track leading to the Abdallah brothers was the right one in the bombings investigation.

The French police have put out "wanted" notices for four brothers of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the alleged Far leader, who is serving a four-year sentence in France, and for five other Far members.

Ever since eight of the nine turned up in northern Lebanon a week ago, the bombings in Paris have ceased.

M Baudouin vigorously denied newspaper claims that the Government had negotiated with Far this summer over the release of Georges Abdallah. He also insisted that the Government had given no mission to Mousignor Hilariou Capocci, a Syrian-born former Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Jerusalem, who visited Abdallah on Monday.

Mr Capocci had met Abdallah at his own request, M Baudouin said. "It was up to Mr Capocci to see what he could do. There was no question of giving into blackmail or of envisaging any kind of bargain."



M Chirac insisting on an Israeli pollout.

French to stay part of Unifil

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, said his Government had no plans to withdraw the French contingent serving with the United Nations Trucekeeping Force in Lebanon (Unifil), despite a declared campaign by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia to drive UN peacekeeping forces out of Lebanon.

M Chirac laid down certain conditions for Unifil's continued presence in Lebanon, including a complete Israeli pollout. Israel has already said it would not abandon its security belt on the ground that Unifil was unable to sufficiently protect Israel's northern border.

M Chirac said France had no proof that any government behind the recent wave of terrorist bombings in Paris, saying that he believed one group, perhaps acting in concert with another, was responsible for the attacks.

He said he was "allergic" to the idea of negotiating with terrorists and denied reports that France had entered into discussions earlier this year with a terrorist group believed to be responsible for the recent bombings. M Chirac refused to say that Iran was behind the attacks on Unifil.

GRENOBLE: A group of 233 French soldiers left France yesterday to join a logistical support unit of Unifil

Jet forced down in Zambia

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Zambia ordered a Portuguese aircraft, carrying 121 passengers and eight crew to land in Lusaka on Tuesday and held it on the ground for 18 hours, claiming it had violated Zambian airspace.

The plane, which had been flying from Maputo in Mozambique to Luanda in Angola, en route to Portugal, arrived in Lisbon yesterday. It was released after the Portuguese Ambassador in Lusaka appealed to the Zambian Foreign Minister. None of the passengers or crew had been harmed.

Zambia claimed that Portugal's state airline, Tap-Air Portugal, had failed to request permission to fly over the country. The Zambian Government declared its airspace a restricted area after a South African attack on the country several months ago.

Tap-Air and the Portuguese Foreign Ministry claim the airline presented a request in July. There had been no reply.

A second Tap-Air plane, which took off from Johannesburg for Lisbon on Wednesday, turned back when the branch of the church which the control tower in Zambia to a request to fly over the country.

Political observers in Lisbon believe the action was taken in retaliation for Portugal's role in preventing the export of coal being included in EEC sanctions against South Africa.

Pretoria cuts off line to the press

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government's Bureau for Information announced yesterday that it had decided the best way to improve the accuracy and quality of the service provided by its "media centre" in Pretoria was to close it down.

The bureau said the centre would close from today and telephone inquiries from the press would no longer be answered. In future, the bureau would reply only to inquiries received by telex, "and then only when in possession of all salient and verified facts."

Telephone replies to press queries would be given "only in exceptional cases, such as acts of terrorism". The bureau minister is taking this action because of press criticism of the accuracy of information it had been providing.

"It would be appearing that one of the main problems which has arisen in this regard has been the unevaluated transmission

of information to the media as a result of telephone inquiries. It has sometimes happened that the initial reports received by the bureau have had to be amended as more accurate and evaluated information has become available.

The bureau has decided to close its media centre on Friday, September 26, at 12:00 hours," the bureau said.

The centre was set up shortly after the declaration of the state of emergency on June 12, under the terms of which reporting of unrest and actions of the security forces is severely restricted.

Recently the bureau, whose ultimate boss is the Deputy Minister of Information, Mr Louis Nel, has been under fire for spending some 1.5 million rand (£462,000 of taxpayers' money on producing a "peace song", aimed at promoting racial harmony, to be aired on radio as a commercial.

Church job for Boesak

Johannesburg — The rebel Dutch Reformed Church clergyman, Dr Allan Boesak, has been elected Moderator of the Mission Church, the branch of the church which the minister mainly to South Africa's Coloured community (Michael Hornsby writes).

Since 1982 Dr Boesak has been president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, but until now had been denied the top job in his own church by conservative Col-

oured colleagues and seconded white ministers who disapprove of his political activism.

Dr Boesak, who was jailed for three weeks in August and September last year and then released and charged with subversion under the Internal Security Act, is currently at large on bail of 20,000 rand (£6,150). The hearing of the case against him was adjourned last week until November 28.

Reagan to veto tough sanctions Bill

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan plans to veto a tough congressional Bill of economic sanctions against South Africa today, the Senate Republican leader, Senator Robert Dole, said yesterday.

The senator said he thought

"it would be hard to sustain a veto", meaning Congress might override it.

A presidential veto can be overridden by two-thirds majority in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The congressional Bill's measures call for a ban on US imports of textiles, coal, steel

iron and uranium and agricultural products from South Africa.

The President is expected to announce the appointment of Mr Edward Perkins, as the first black US Ambassador to South Africa. Mr Perkins, a career diplomat, is now Ambassador to Liberia.

Censorless Hungary finds freedom has limits

From Roger Boyes, Budapest

There were several hundred mourners, many of them too young to remember the 1956 uprising, at the recent Budapest funeral of Mr Ferenc Donath. He was a doughy reformer, part of the entourage of the disgraced and lamented Prime Minister, Mr Imre Nagy.

Unlike Mr Nagy, who was executed in 1958, Mr Donath survived the revolution, did time in jail and emerged as a useful consultant between the fringe opposition and more cautious reform economists.

Among the gravestide eulogies there was a particularly telling one from a dissident — "We hope that the time has now passed when funerals are the only occasion one can speak freely."

Well, yes, that time has

indeed passed in Hungary, rightly praised as the most relaxed country in the Soviet bloc. But how free is free? There is technically no censor in Hungary, but the Communist Party nominates the senior editorial staff of all publications and has instituted a system of post-censorship with detailed analysis of what should not have been printed.

Reprimands, warnings, dismissals and closures are part of everyday publishing life.

A television news director was reprimanded the other day for showing too much of the British royal wedding; the coverage, though better than in the rest of East Europe, was not exactly comprehensive.

Mentions of Trotsky, Afghanistan and criticism of the Soviet Union are off-limits. For the most part editorial boards and writers exercise

self-censorship on these subjects; that is, they ignore them.

But there are certain grey areas and, if an enterprising writer slips through a reference to a Soviet historical figure, somebody somewhere — perhaps a vigilant reader in the Soviet Embassy — will make it an issue. Requests are held.

The latest victim of post-censorship is a writer and playwright, Mr Istvan Csaruka. Earlier this year Mr Csaruka made a tour of the US, Canada and West Germany.

Radio Free Europe broadcast a review of one of Mr Csaruka's more critical lectures. At the same time the writer had a volume of essays published in New York.

Although obviously sceptical about socialism and concerned with the moral health of Hungary, the lectures show

a deep feeling for his native country.

That was not good enough for the Hungarian Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr Gyorgy Vajda: "Editorial offices will not publish work by Istvan Csaruka until a further decision is taken..."

The authorities have also just suspended the literary magazine *Tisztaif* and are carrying out an investigation into a "series of errors" committed by the editors. These seem to include the publication of poems by Gaspar Nagy, dismissed in 1984 as secretary of the Writers' Union.

The magazine has been publishing good, agonized verses, larded with *Wellschmerz* and references to Hungarians selling their souls normal fodder for literary journals throughout the world, but apparently too close

Killer of British teenagers gets life

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A Chinese youth aged 16 who admitted murdering two British teenagers on a remote Hong Kong hillside was sentenced yesterday to indefinite detention.

The youth, who was not named because of his age, pleaded guilty to killing Nicola Myers, aged 18, and Kenneth McBride, 17, on April 30, 1985.

Four others have been charged with murder and rape in connection with the case.

Havana expels agency chiefs

Havana (AFP) — Cuba has expelled the bureau chiefs here of Reuters and Agence France-Presse news agencies for having quoted a human rights activist.

Mr Robert Powell of Reuters and M Noel Lorthios of AFP had sent dispatches quoting Elizabeth Sanchez Santa Cruz, vice-president of the unofficial Cuban Human Rights Committee.

Cost of fraud

Peking (Reuters) — Huang Yuhui, a high-ranking Chinese Communist Party official in Guangxi province, was executed for leading a group which earned the equivalent of more than £34,000 in fraud and bribery, Peking Radio reported.

Climbers' ban

Kathmandu (AFP) — Two mountaineers, a Swiss and a Pole, have been banned from climbing in the Nepalese Himalayas for five years after an illegal scaling of the 26,903 ft Mount Cho Oyu.

Party millions

Peking (AFP) — The Chinese Communist Party has admitted 6.3 million new members since 1981, bringing total membership to 44 million.

Brain drain

Washington (AP) — The active ingredient in marijuana, called THC, causes a loss of brain cells in rats similar to that attributed to ageing, raising fresh concern about the illegal drug, according to Dr Philip Landfield of Wake Forest University, North Carolina.



Signor Sandro Pertini, the former President of Italy (above) celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday. The Pope joined leading politicians in congratulating him.

Live surgery

Moscow (Reuters) — Soviet surgeons gingerly but successfully removed a primed grenade lodged in a soldier wounded while serving in Afghanistan.

Gorilla dies

New York (AP) — Carolyn, the oldest gorilla in captivity, died of natural causes in the Bronx Zoo at the age of 47. She stayed at the Central Park Zoo from 1943 until 1982 when she was moved to the Bronx Zoo.

Aid call

San Jose (Reuters) — Costa Rica asked for international help to deal with the growing number of Nicaraguan refugees entering the country daily to escape the bloodshed and economic hardships. Only about 21,000 of the estimated 150,000 Nicaraguans to Costa Rica are recognized refugees.

Etna quiets down after eruption

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The airport at Catania in eastern Sicily was reopened yesterday evening after it had been closed for 24 hours because volcanic dust settled on the runways after Wednesday night's sudden eruption of Mt Etna.

The eruption had opened a new crack on the north-east summit, but by yesterday evening the situation was recovering as quiet with little

more activity registered than gaseous vapours emerging from the craters.

The eruption followed about 10 days of activity, including small expulsions of lava. It was marked by the dramatic emergence of a black cloud of volcanic ash, similar in its mushroom shape to a nuclear explosion. It rose to more than a mile in height and was clearly visible from the off-shore islands. A fine ash fell on Catania and the smaller

towns on Mt Eina's slopes.

The airport was closed because there were fears that aircraft would skid on the slippery surface.

Mr John Murray, a British volcanologist leading a study group on Mt Eina, said last night: "I have never experienced anything like Wednesday night. Volcanic bombs were reaching heights between two and three miles, and at a mile and a half away we could feel the heat."

US forces in Honduras on alert

Contra rebels believed ready for big push into Nicaragua

From Philip Jacobson, Honduras
A few weeks before the Reagan Administration begins pumping substantial new funds into supporting the Nicaraguan Contras, there is growing speculation here that the rebels are planning a big incursion into Sandinista territory.

Flights into Honduras recently have contained an unusually high number of American civilians often describing themselves as anthropologists. Ever since the Reagan Administration succeeded in pushing its controversial \$100 million military aid package for the Contras through Congress last June, there have been suggestions that the rebels will be encouraged to take and hold a town inside Nicaragua to demonstrate their improved military prowess.

Another poor performance on the battlefield, especially if accompanied by further allegations of brutality towards non-combatants, is certain to expose the White House to renewed pressure from opponents of Administration policy in Honduras and Nicaragua. The more Reagan builds up the Contras as heroes fighting for freedom, the greater the pressure will be on them to deliver something that looks like \$100 million, one observer said.

few days after the new Contra aid was secured. His dismissal, after less than a year in one of the most sensitive posts in Central America, was attributed by the State Department to "not effectively carrying out US policy in Honduras." But the growing number of Hondurans who worry about where the ever-closer military links with the US, and the presence of thousands of well-armed Contras on their territory, is taking their country, interpreted this as meaning that Mr Ferch was not considered hawkish enough on these issues to satisfy Washington and their own military high command.



Delegates met in Vienna yesterday to resume talks about mutual balanced force reductions, including Russia's Mr Vladimir Mikhailov, left, and the US envoy, Mr Robert Blackwill.

Gloom over Vienna troop cut talks

The 40th round of mutual balanced force reduction talks (MBFR) began yesterday in Vienna amid increasing speculation that the deadlocked negotiations may not survive into the new year. "The talks are in trouble and could easily end quite soon," a highly placed Nato source said.

Nato has stationed in Central Europe. Nato has claimed repeatedly that the Eastern bloc's estimates are several tens of thousands out on Western figures gleaned from intelligence activity. However, last December Nato, in a proposal largely inspired by the then British ambassador to the talks, Mr Michael Alexander, agreed to set aside the data issue and proceed with questions of verification.

By delegates on both sides to the contrary, it is widely believed that Moscow is dissatisfied with the talks and would be happy to end them. The recent Stockholm accord has been seen as evidence of Moscow's preference for the Conference of Security and Co-operation in Europe process as a means of maintaining dialogue with the West. A means of incorporating the troop-level talks in Vienna into CSCE negotiations would, however, be resisted by Nato which is, despite the difficulties of MBFR, eager that the Vienna talks should continue.

Test ban 'would bar safety research'

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States disclosed that about two-thirds of its nuclear stockpile has yet to be fitted with ultra-modern safety devices, and gave this as a key reason for continuing underground testing.

The Pentagon released an unusual photograph of a damaged nuclear warhead and made public a letter to Congress from Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, in support of President Reagan's strong opposition to joining the Soviet Union's unilateral test ban.

The warhead was cracked in an experiment during an underground nuclear test in Nevada, the Pentagon said. That testing could help American scientists to design shields to protect warheads from attack in space as they headed for their targets.

"The introduction of modern safety and security devices into the two-thirds of our stockpiled weapons that do not yet have them would be halted" by a test ban, Mr Weinberger said in his letter.

But Mr Frank Gaffney, the Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary, emphasized that American nuclear weapons had been designed for decades in a manner in which there was "zero possibility" of an accidental nuclear explosion.

But some high explosive, non-nuclear triggers on such devices could detonate in a plane crash or other accident, possibly causing the spread of dangerous plutonium.

"We are fixing the problem through... a very impressive technique called 'insensitive high explosive' that will not detonate except under very carefully controlled, specific circumstances," he said.

Falkland fishing pacts defended by Argentina

From Eduardo Cae, Buenos Aires
Argentina has strongly defended its bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria allowing those countries to fish in the waters around the Falkland Islands.

in the economic zone that is exclusively Argentine". He said the agreements recognized Argentine claims to sovereignty in the zone.

The British position, reiterated by Sir Geoffrey at the United Nations this week, is that the issue should be resolved through multilateral negotiations. London also supports a study of fishing resources in the area by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization.

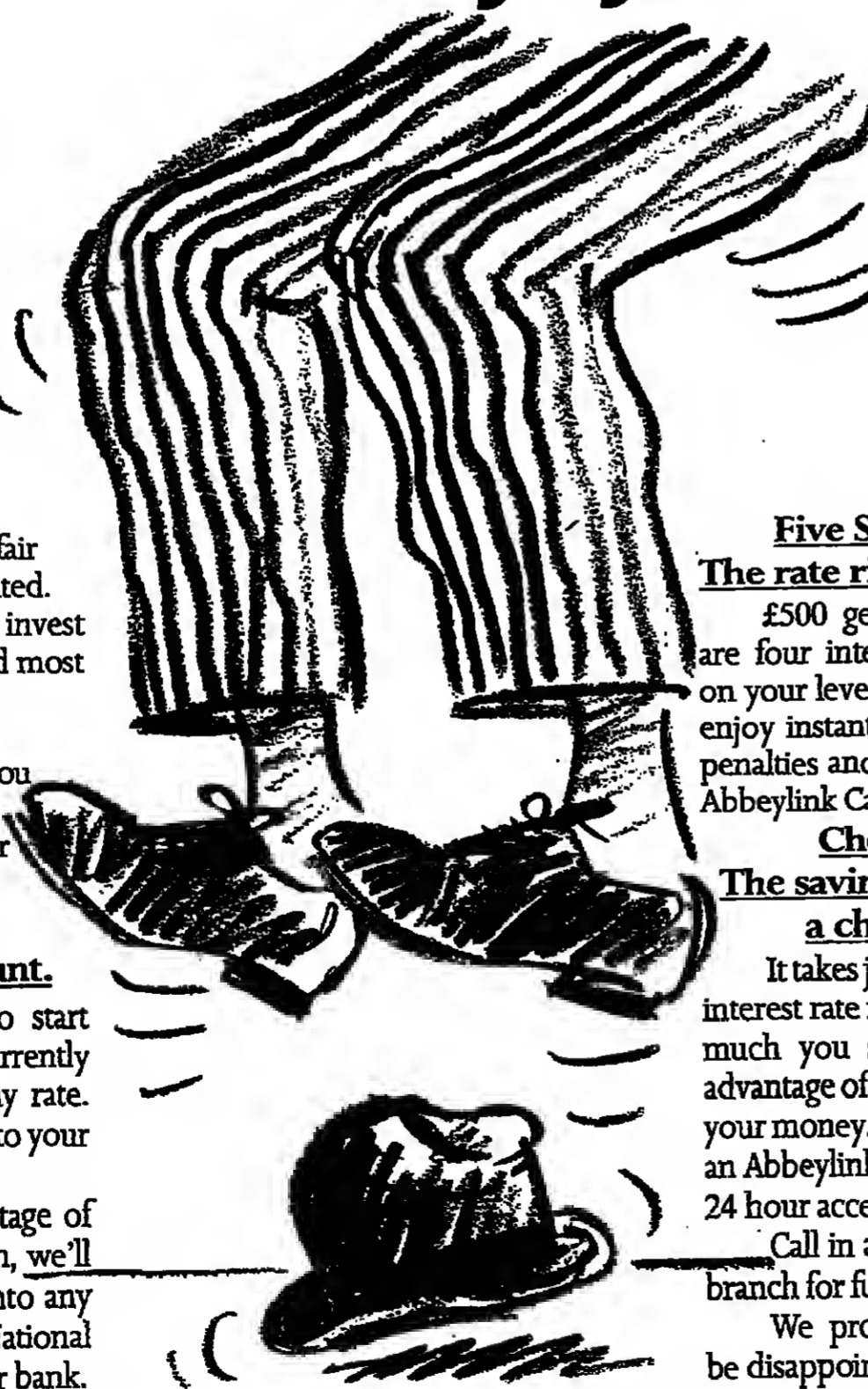
Lange rejects Russian bid for landing rights

From Richard Long, Wellington
The New Zealand Government yesterday rejected a renewed Soviet request for fishing fleet facilities. The request was raised with Mr Michael Moore, New Zealand's Minister for Overseas Trade, who is in Moscow.

United States, and other independent nations in the South Pacific. The request for landing rights and on-shore facilities for fishing vessels was raised with Mr Moore by Mr Nikolai Kudryavtsev, acting Soviet Minister of Fisheries, when they signed an agreement allowing the Soviet fleet rights to fish in New Zealand's 200-mile economic zone for another four years.

Leading article, page 13

When the TSB says no we'll say yes.



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Army anxiety over 'dirty war' trial

From Eduardo Cae, Buenos Aires

Two former Buenos Aires police chiefs and 10 other people went on trial here yesterday on charges of kidnapping and torturing more than 250 people during the military regime's "dirty war" against terrorism.

As the new inquiry into human rights violations got under way there were strong indications that the civilian Government of President Alfonsín is worried that prolonged prosecution of lower-ranking military officers may further upset and demoralize the armed forces, whose public prestige is at an all-time low following the loss of the Falklands war.

The chief defendant in the trial is General Ramón Juan Camps who, as chief of the Buenos Aires province police between 1976 and 1978, developed a reputation for being as ruthless as he was outspoken.

"He is one of the symbols of the repression in Argentina," Señor Luis Moreno Ocampo, the assistant prosecutor in the case, said. General Camps received worldwide notoriety in the 1978 book by the former newspaper publisher, Jacobo Timmerman, Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number, in which the general's surrealistic interrogations were described.

The trial, which is expected to last until Christmas, is the first time officers who carried out orders from their superiors to torture have been indicted, a development reported to have caused consternation within the armed forces. The military had hoped legal action would be limited to the high-ranking officers under whose seven-year dictatorship more than 9,000 persons disappeared and are presumed dead.

The trial is taking place in the same ornate, 19th-century wood-panelled courtroom where nine former top officers, including three ex-Presidents, were tried last December for human rights violations. In that case the civilian court sentenced five officers, including two former Presidents, to jail terms ranging from life imprisonment to 4½ years. Four other officers were acquitted, however, and last week the prosecutor called the sentences arbitrary and appealed to the Supreme Court.

While that trial was generally seen as essential to re-establishing a state of law in Argentina after years of kidnappings and disappearances, Western diplomatic sources say high-ranking government officials are eager to close the issue, so they can concentrate on strengthening the young democracy. At least one other human rights trial against former military officers is scheduled.

"The Government would like to put an end to the trials," a Western diplomat said. "They feel they have made their point." The continuing prosecutions appear to be becoming a source of division within the Government. "The trials are a way of proving to the victims that there is justice and also of showing those responsible that if they do it again they could end up in jail," a well-informed source said. "That is why I am worried that the executive branch does not share this view."

General Camps, aged 59, is suffering from cancer. He is charged with ordering the torture of about 180 people and with the murder of Sergio Karacachoff, a prominent opposition figure, and Domingo Teruggi, who was abducted with Karacachoff.

Fur flies as town bylaw ruffles the cat lobby

From Paul Valley, New York

Mayor Michael Hannum of the small town of Pitman, New Jersey, has been trying for years to attract the interest of the American media. Now he is besieged by it.

"This town is officially listed as having the Number One toxic waste site in the entire United States," he said. "We have been trying to draw their attention to our campaign without any success. Now they're all here because of the cats."

had a number of complaints about individuals keeping 10 or 12 cats and not looking after them properly," he said.

Mrs Lois Thompson, the Town Clerk, said: "In summer the stench can be terrible. People who live near such households complain that they have to keep the windows closed. And they are unable to grow anything in their yard because the cats use it."

The townsfolk introduced the law after trying, unsuccessfully, to get action from the local board of health. The result was an invasion by television reporters.

"We've got a contaminated lake here which contains all the known cancer-causing agents there are," the mayor said. "It's closed off and contained, but some of it is still seeping out."

But the cameramen were all off filming cats, leaving distracted city officials to wonder if an ordinance restricting the number of television crews to three per street would be legal.

Manila welcome Cabinet... Political unrest... Zia rules out for martial...

Dhaka press... Security round-up for Games...

Manila welcomes President home with cheers and yellow confetti Cabinet briefs Aquino on rebel crisis

From Keith Dalton
Manila

President Aquino returned yesterday from the United States to cheering crowds, and immediately sat down with her Cabinet to discuss mounting calls for tougher action against communist rebels.

Within hours her outspoken Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, told a business meeting that, if unchecked, the war could reach "a point of irreversibility" by 1990, when the 17,000-strong New People's Army could field up to 30,000 men.

"That means we will be fighting each other in a conventional war, no longer just a guerrilla war. It's a statement," he said.

Before the meeting Vice-President Salvador Laurel also said that "a more decisive policy" in combating the 17-year insurgency would be presented to Mrs Aquino, whose call for an immediate ceasefire has been rejected by the rebels.

More than 30,000 people lined the route of the presidential motorcade, which was showered with yellow confetti from office buildings at Makati, the financial centre, where crowds chanting "Cory, Cory" surged on to the road. Hundreds of yellow balloons soared skywards trailing yellow streamers, and banners strung from office windows proclaimed "Welcome home, a job well done".

At the airport Mrs Aquino



Mr Enrile, right, with General Ramos, centre, and Mr Ramon Mitra, Agriculture Minister, at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

she said her nine-day visit had won "a sympathetic understanding" of the Philippines from President Reagan, Congress and the American people.

She believed she had established a personal rapport with Mr Reagan. The country's creditor

banks had been made to understand the "imperative of Philippine growth", and she hoped that re-negotiation of a \$25.4 billion (£18 billion) foreign debt could reduce annual repayments from 40 per cent of export earnings to 25 per cent. Final approval is needed for

a \$508 million stand-by loan from the International Monetary Fund and \$300 million from the World Bank.

The US Senate also has to vote on a \$200 million aid package.

Stressing that Filipinos should not "hold our breath" for outside answers to the

country's economic plight, Mrs Aquino said: "The main effort is ours... let us get on with it then, for what else is there to wait for?"

At the Cabinet meeting the armed forces chief, General Fidel Ramos, presented Mrs Aquino with an updated report on the security situation.

NZ acts to save hot springs of Rotorua

From Richard Long
Wellington

The New Zealand Government has proposed drastic measures to save one of the country's main tourist attractions, the Rotorua thermal area, which is internationally famous for its hot pools, geysers and mud pools.

Concerned about the draining of underground hot springs by private bore users, which has led to declining thermal activity and the threatened extinction of the area, the Government proposed the closure of all inefficient geothermal bores. It has also suggested a summer shutdown of all bores close to the Pohutu geyser.

The conservation moves, proposed by Mr Bob Tizard, the Minister of Energy, Mr Phil Goff, the Minister for the Environment, and Mr Peter Tapsell, the Minister of Internal Affairs, are to be taken to next week's Cabinet meeting for final approval.

But the moves were met with an outcry from Rotorua bore owners and criticism from Mr Paul East, the city's opposition MP, who said they were arbitrary.

Central to the rescue operation is the vesting of managerial responsibility for the thermal area with the Ministry of Energy, instead of local councils.

Harare signals big constitutional changes next year

From A Correspondent, Harare

Zimbabwe is to change its Westminster parliamentary system next year, Dr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, has confirmed.

Dr Zvobgo told members of the 40-seat Senate that it will be abolished next year in a programme which includes introduction of an executive presidency and the removal of 20 seats reserved for whites in the 100-member House of Assembly.

Plans to amend the British-drafted Lancaster House independence constitution were "extensive and well advanced", he said.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, is reported to be on the brink of signing a unity agreement with Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of Zapu, the main black opposition party, which would inaugurate a one-party state.

On April 18, the eighth anniversary of independence, Mr Mugabe is constitutionally entitled to remove the 20 seats for whites if he can muster 70 votes in the House.

He controls 66 seats and Mr Nkomo controls 14 seats. Mr Mugabe will not be able to outlaw all organized opposition until 1990 unless he gets approval from all 100 MPs, including 14 in the Conservative Alliance of Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian

Prime Minister, five white independents who generally support the Government, and a lone member for the party of the exiled founder of Zapu, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

"Details will have to wait until very thorough consideration has been given, but I can say I look forward to the year after next with great joy," Dr Zvobgo said.

Security clamp: The Zimbabwe Government is imposing security restrictions on returning residents, a move which observers believe is aimed particularly at the 100,000 whites who emigrated to South Africa after the start of the 1975-80 war for black rule here.

Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Home Affairs, told the Senate that "birds of flight" would have to be cleared by Zimbabwe's secret service, the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO).

"The CIO and the CID have to find out if the individual is suitable and ensure that he will not be used by our enemies to destabilize Zimbabwe," Mr Nkala said.

"There are many returning residents from South Africa, they are welcome but they should satisfy us," he said.

Mr Nkala did not specify if the process would be applied to returning Zimbabwean citizens.

Political unrest in Pakistan

Zia rules out need for martial law

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia of Pakistan has accused opposition elements of attempting to create a law and order problem and pave the way for another period of martial law.

The President, who also commands the Army and imposed the country's longest period of martial law in 1977, said martial law would not be imposed because the Government could handle the situation.

President Zia rejected the possibility of removing the civilian Government under the Chief Minister, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, in Sindh province and the imposition of governor's rule. There has been much disorder in Pakistan's southern province, which has been in the forefront of anti-government demonstrations since 1983.

President Zia, speaking at a news conference in Quetta, said he is willing to talk with the Opposition, which boycotted his 1985 non-party general elections. But he said the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) — the alliance of 10 opposition parties — had been inflexible.

"We will hold the next elections in 1990, and if the MRD has any questions it can come and discuss it with us," President Zia said.

The MRD, however, insists that President Zia should resign and fresh elections, with the participation of political parties, should be held without delay under the original 1973 constitution.

President Zia said he abhorred the party political system and would like to keep parties out of the local elections to be held in 1987.

The Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Jumejo, who heads the ruling Muslim League party, has repeatedly said political parties are necessary to run the country democratically. But General Zia said that, if the foundation of a political system is weak — and he implied that he regards political parties as unstable — the building which will be erected on it will remain vulnerable and may crumble.

The Prime Minister's efforts to re-plant democracy in Pakistan after nine years of martial law appear to have run into serious difficulties with a bad crime situation in his home province of Sindh, as well as other criminal activities, such as the recent hijacking of a Pan Am jet in Karachi, murders of Soviet and Iraqi diplomats, and sectarian clashes in several Punjab cities and towns resulting in the imposition of curfews in parts of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, and its suburb, Shabdara.

Press reports have hinted at major political changes taking place in Punjab and Sindh, but no official confirmation is available.

Dhaka press strike

Dhaka — Newspapers in Bangladesh failed to come out for the fifth consecutive day yesterday as more than 7,000 journalists and printers continued their strike to press for re-opening of two newspapers closed by the owners after a dispute with unions (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Journalists and printers walked out demanding that the daily Bangladesh Observer

and its sister weekly Chitrali should resume publication.

More than 500 people were jobless when the owners closed the newspapers last May and refused to resume publication unless the unions accepted new technology and the dismissal of redundant staff. The dispute has affected 20 dailies, 13 of them in Dhaka, and the government-run National News Agency.

Security round-up for Games

Seoul (Reuters) — South Korea arrested 263,564 suspected criminals in a three-month drive to tighten security for the Asian Games under way in Seoul, police said yesterday.

Those arrested, who accounted for one in every 150 of the population, included suspected hoodlums, robbers, pickpockets, rapists and murderers, police said.

The authorities charged 48,333, summarily sentenced 76,312 to up to 29 days in jail, and are questioning 16,004. The rest have been freed.

Security is an overriding concern for the Games after a bomb attack at Seoul airport on September 14 killed five South Koreans and injured more than 30.

The South Korean Government has blamed the blast on North Korea, accusing the communist North of being bent on sabotaging the Asian Games.

South Korea's 100,000 policemen are on alert against terrorist attacks.

Airport authorities said they had expelled a West German from South Korea after he was found to be listed as a suspected criminal by Interpol. He arrived from Tokyo on Tuesday.

World Bridge Britons in final 168

From a Bridge Correspondent
Miami Beach

One British pair qualified for the final of the open pairs world championship being played here.

Glyn Ligging, aged 24, a host at the London School of Bridge, and Andy Robson, aged 22, a supply teacher in Bristol, finished in 20th place in a semi-final round of 168 pairs which included most of the world's leading players.

The field was headed by Lou Bluhm and Bart Bramley, of the United States. Of the leading 42 qualifying pairs 18 were from the US and the field was completed by six pairs from the *repêchage*. None was British or American.

Placings of the other British semi-finalists were Patrick Jourdain and Barry Rigal 85, Roman Smolski and Henry Bethé 116, and Tony Sowter and Paul Hackett 154.

In the women's championship, world champions Sally Horton and Sandra Landy finished in fourth place.

Leading qualifiers were the former world champions, Jacqui Mitchell and Judge Amalia Kearse of New York. Both finals began yesterday.

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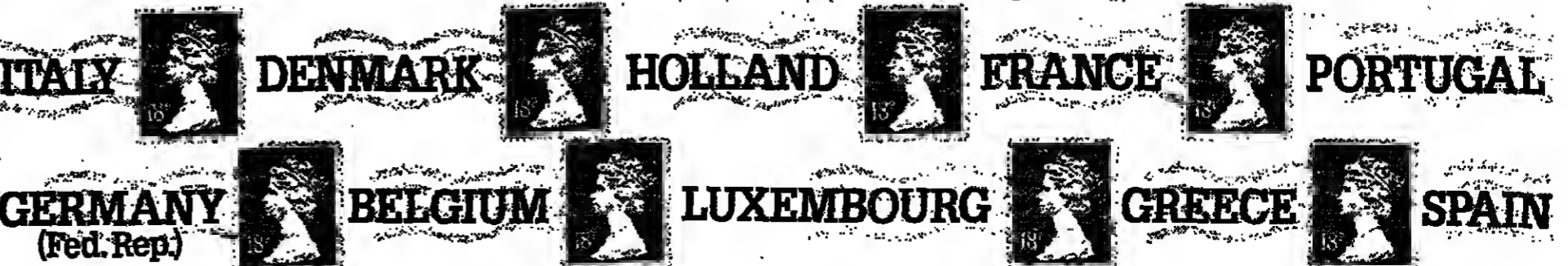
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Test ban would ban safety research

my anxiety over dirty war trial

Resigned to defeat

HARD LABOUR THE POLITICAL DIARY OF ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Part 5: The final days

Continuing his campaign against Militant in his Liverpool constituency, Robert Kilroy-Silk was making headway in his investigations and was attracting unlooked-for parliamentary support. But the battle was taking too heavy a personal toll

NOVEMBER 8, 1985

The Times had a story quoting Neil as saying he would make no intervention to help Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, the embattled MP for Knowsley North, in his campaign against a Militant takeover of his constituency party. Asked what he would do if Mr Kilroy-Silk was deselected through Militant pressure, forcing a by-election, Mr Kinnoch repeated: "He is well capable of looking after himself".

NOVEMBER 10

At the annual remembrance service in Prescott, Sean Hughes, MP for the neighbouring constituency of Knowsley South, whispered: "Frank Field (Birkenhead) has a list of more than 70 members who'd be prepared to come and help in a by-election", he said. He looked around carefully to make sure that no one could hear. "They can't take the whip away from all of us", he added confidently. But I don't want a by-election. I've already been elected, with a majority of 17,000. The difficulty now is that I can't say I don't want a by-election without it looking as if I've backed down.

We had coffee afterwards in Prescott Civic Hall where several people mentioned a story in the

Extracted from *Hard Labour: The Political Diary of Robert Kilroy-Silk*, to be published by Chatto & Windus on September 29 at £9.95.

Sunday Times claiming that regional officials of the Labour Party are being obstructed in their attempts to verify the credentials of delegates from the Transport and General Workers' Union by union officials.

It's all beginning to boil very nicely. We shall add more to the pot when necessary.

NOVEMBER 11

I saw Neil this morning, at my request. He thought that I should "tone down" my campaign. It was clear that the by-election threat was worrying him, and he was obviously relieved when I told him there would not be one. I wonder if I have done the right thing? Neil will do what he can to help me. I know that, but he might have had a little extra incentive if he wanted to avoid a by-election. I've now removed that threat.

The *Guardian* had an amazing letter attacking me. It was written by four of my parliamentary colleagues, comrades and friends: Terry, Fiddie, Eddie Loyden, Bob Wareing and Allan Roberts. It said that my threat to force a by-election, and Frank Field's efforts to enlist the support of MPs to campaign for me, was an interference in the democratic procedure of the Labour Party.

NOVEMBER 12

Things must be getting really bad. Denis Healey stopped me at the Members' entrance tonight. "Hello, Bob," he said warmly. "Then, arm outstretched, he shook my hand firmly and with feeling. "All the best," I felt as if I were about to be sent over the top at Anzio, never to return. Clement Freud added to my



After the fight: Kilroy-Silk with his wife Jan and daughter Natasha — the campaign had intruded into all their lives, and the fun had gone

I hadn't intended to resign from my parliamentary seat. Indeed, when *Hard Labour* was delivered to my publishers earlier this year I expected to be launching it at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool. That's what we planned. And why not?

Of course the book would provoke controversy. Of that there was no doubt. Nor would it please everyone. Unpleasant truths never do. But there is nothing in it that demonstrates anything other than support for Neil Kinnoch and the values that he endorses. The book is an exposé of Militant and of the tactics employed by some of its supporters in Knowsley North, not an attack on the Labour Party. There is nothing in it for which I have to apologise, nothing of which I was ashamed. It tells no lie. And the Labour Party, I know, would be big enough to live with its truths just as it manages to survive the Hattons and the

Scargills, the Beans and the Heffers. No, *Hard Labour* had nothing to do with my decision, except perhaps in chronology, my path towards it. What made me decide to step aside was the recognition that the Labour Party that I know had been effectively destroyed in my constituency. It wasn't my party any more. I had nothing in common with the political principles and aspirations of those who were now in control.

The majority of ordinary decent party members, wearied by the constant and exhausting battles, that cannot even be visualized by

those who have not experienced them day by day, had given up the struggle. Some had left the party — but for no other. Others had given up politics altogether. The majority simply refused to attend constituency party meetings any more.

It was then, some time in late spring, that I realized that I, too, did not want to continue spending the major part of my time fighting elements within my own party. It was debilitating as well as fruitless. I knew then that I would probably not stand at the next election. At the end of June I told my

'Not my party any more'

NOVEMBER 13

I now know the membership of the TGWU branches affiliated to my constituency. It's clear that many do not have enough members to support the delegates. Thus, the 6/556 branch has only 304 members but five delegates, which would require 401 members, all living in Knowsley North. Some TGWU branches have been sending delegates to other Merseyside constituencies on the same membership. Branch 6/612, with 263 members throughout Merseyside, would be entitled to no more than three delegates if

any one constituency, assuming that all the members lived there. In fact, it has 24 that we have counted so far. That means, in effect, that the branch is claiming a membership of more than 2,400.

Frank Field has been to see Neil about a letter Neil was reported to be sending him. He marched into Neil's office and asked what it was all about. Neil told him to stop pushing for a by-election. Frank told me he had refused.

"Well, that's it," Neil said. "We'll lose the next election and the one after."

"You'd better do something to stop it, then, hadn't you?" Frank said. "You'd better help Kilroy."

family. A week or so later I confided in a friend who happened to have contacts with the BBC.

"But what will you do?" he asked, anxiously. "I don't know," I said. No doubt unconvincingly. But it was the truth.

I realize that the facts do not fit with the image of the clever, Machiavellian me that has been painted by some of those I thought were my friends, and who are convinced that I wrote the book, resigned my seat and joined the BBC as part of a well-planned and cleverly contrived strategy to obtain maximum publicity.

The truth is different. I had no plans. Like Micawber, I hoped that something would turn up. It did. Quickly.

Within a couple of days the BBC invited me to talk to them about a "major new commitment in daytime television". The rest, as they say, is history. The future, I trust, will belong to the Labour Party.

"Thanks, Frank," I said, not sure that he had done me any favour.

NOVEMBER 17

We cleared the leaves in a biting wind, watched as always by our increasingly tame robin. I felt very depressed. Whereas I would normally have been thinking of new plans for the garden, I was preoccupied with the constituency.

I've had enough of it all. I keep asking myself why I should let it dominate and spoil my life. Worse still, it is now intruding into the lives of my son and daughter, who

OFFERS OF SUPPORT FROM STRANGE QUARTERS



Offered to help at a by-election

Clement Freud



'I've never liked you, but...'

Andrew Faulds



'All the best' and a handshake

Denis Healey

are constantly being asked about my problems by their friends, their friends' parents, their teachers or just people they meet. Dominic and Natasha say they don't mind, but I wonder.

NOVEMBER 19-20

The TGWU has paid £111 to affiliation to cover all its delegates. At £5 per delegate, this would work out at 22 delegates whereas, in fact, they have 36, so the union has been asked to reduce the number. And what have they done? They've ordered the apportionment of their affiliation fees in such a way as to maximize the number of delegates.

Peter Fisher strikes again. He has uncovered another ASTMS delegate who has not been properly appointed by the branch he claims to represent. There are now 137 delegates, of whom I must have 69 to win. I still have 66 and 10 possibles — and we still have to sort out the TGWU.

NOVEMBER 21-24

The Prescott East branch of my Party met tonight and unanimously passed a resolution calling on the National Executive of the Labour Party to undertake an inquiry into the way the constituency party is being run. If there is an inquiry it will probably mean that my reselection will have to be postponed. In any case it looked as if it would have to be delayed to sort out the TGWU delegation.

It looks as if the Liverpool council saga is coming to an end. Already the Militants have climbed down, humiliated, and accepted that they will have to set a legal budget after all — and the best of it is that the surrender was forced on them by their own district Labour Party. Better still is the news that Neil is now reputed to be determined that the Liverpool Militants should be expelled from the Party and he is canvassing support for a motion to this effect to be passed at Wednesday's meeting of the National Executive.

NOVEMBER 25

The NEC meeting in two days' time will be required to determine whether or not to allow my reselection to proceed. The chances are that it will be postponed. The regional office of the Labour Party in Manchester has still not managed to agree with the TGWU on the number of delegates it is entitled to. It's getting late because nominations close this Thursday, November 28. There are just three candidates: myself, Tony Mulhearn and Keya Coombes.

The delegates' credentials have to be verified by December 3. I don't think it can be done. Apart from the middle with the TGWU, there are other delegates who have not been cleared.

Let us hope that Neil has enough votes this time.

NOVEMBER 26

The knives were out straight away at tonight's management committee meeting. Suffice to say that during one of the tirades, Dave Kerr, the Press secretary, stood up, pointing his finger in the manner of all Militants, and screamed that Frank Marsden, an elderly and respected member, was "an animal and an arsehole". I wrote the words down on the back of the minutes.

The wonder is not that people like Dave Kerr have taken over the Labour Party, but that people like Frank Marsden still bother to turn up.

NOVEMBER 27

It was a long day that passed without any news from the NEC. But I knew that whatever happened it could never be the same again. I can't go back to yesterday. The fun has been taken out of politics for me, at least for now, and I regret that and resent it. I've also become less fun, or so my mother and children tell me, and I think they're right.

I am resigned to defeat and political oblivion and the adjustment to a new life. It can't be any worse.

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THE TIMES

SATURDAY

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- 5 Paltry (6)
- 8 Very cold (3)
- 9 Pillar (6)
- 10 Vision science (6)
- 11 Not fit (4)
- 12 Clearly outlined (5,3)
- 14 Out of tune (3,3)
- 17 Dull (6)
- 19 Baldness (8)
- 22 Man in charge (4)
- 24 Miser (6)
- 25 Rubber (6)
- 26 Alphabet (11,1,1)
- 27 Overcome with horror (6)
- 28 Speculation (6)

DOWN

- 2 Worship (5)
- 3 Soviet satellite (7)
- 4 Fussy (7)
- 5 Short-sighted person (5)
- 6 Eating district (5)
- 7 Hair spray (7)
- 13 Earth atmosphere (3)
- 15 Highland kiln (7)
- 16 Before (3)
- 17 Local accent (7)
- 18 Hug (7)
- 20 Italian staple food (5)
- 21 Diamond measure (3)
- 23 Scornful look (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1063

ACROSS: 8 Rough-and-ready 9 Cub 10 Orchestra 11 Scum 13 Suburbs 16 Neglect 19 Sauna 22 Tulle lace 24 Tub 25 First offender

DOWN: 1 Braces 2 Rubble 3 Thronle 4 Enrags 5 Fines 6 Wailer 7 Eways 12 Cue 14 Boss-eyed 15 Bun 16 Noddy 17 Galore 18

PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIDAY PAGE

A solo life behind the lines...

Jane Lapotaire lit another Gauloise and considered her craft. "Actress?" she said. "Please don't call me that. It's a disparaging word which still has connotations of Edward VII and his music hall ladies. It's tantamount to saying someone is an easy lay." She added, in that husky voice which can fill an auditorium with a blast of sexual anticipation, "You don't have doctors and doctresses, or painters and painteresses."

A woman of passionate roles, Jane Lapotaire reveals a cool determination to Andrew Duncan

thrown into a Dr Barnado's home. "I used to have a lot of resentment and hate, but now I have compassion, although I can't say I ever loved her. The moment I became a mother I could never understand how anyone could leave a child. "Do you want to know the corny cliché of why I went into the theatre? I remember thinking at school that if I couldn't have the two people who were

'I would resent falling in love again'

supposed to love me in my life, then I would have 500 people out there who didn't know me, and they would all love me. Of course, that's not the reason I continued."

She is now in repertory at the Royal Shakespeare Company for seven months, starring as Lina in G.B. Shaw's Misalliance and Maya in Arthur Miller's The Archbishop's Calfing. Of Shaw's farce, she commented: "I'm staggered that the play isn't performed more often - it's very relevant and modern, and it's huge fun for me not to be playing a massive role. I can't believe I've got time to put my feet up or potter in the garden.

"Lina is Shaw's idea of what a modern liberated young woman should be - she wears trousers, earns her own living and is not dependent on anyone. I have a lot of similarities with her. I haven't made any man 'the master of my body and my soul', as Lina says."

"Never? She has been married twice - first, briefly, to a cameraman and then, for 10 years, to film director Roland Joffé by whom she has a 13-year-old son, Rowan. She laughed loudly and stared hard. "Oh, frequently," she admitted. "Since my divorce, I've been lucky and had three good relationships, but I've lived on my own for seven years now and would resent falling in love again."

"I don't want my guts churned waiting for the phone to ring, or the electric shocks when he walks round the corner. I tend to back away from the 'grit under the skin' problems. When things become tacky I have the sanctuary of my home, but I worry that the longer I am on my own the more fussy I become. I'm not sure how malleable I would be to another person's whims and foibles. I'm less tolerant and that makes me sad."

"I worry about old age but I have dreams. One is sharing it with an intellectual companion - sex dwindles in importance as one gets older and compatibility is far more important. But, perhaps inevitably, I will be on my own - ideally in a cottage in the country, surrounded by cats, a typewriter and a lovely garden with several grandchildren who think grandma is sparky and makes good apple crumble."

"People who are divorced think they are free, but one veers between being proud of one's independence and then



Alone, not lonely: Jane Lapotaire sees herself growing old "surrounded by grandchildren"

feeling. "Maybe I should marry again. There is no lonelier sound than putting a key into the door of an empty house. On the other hand, I can get up at three in the morning to eat yogurt." Presumably that is an acquired middle-class habit and not the sort of eccentricity one expects of a working-class feminist from Ipswich. "I do consider myself middle class now. I got nothing but positive things from my second marriage and don't

consider the break-up as a failure - in some ways it is a very positive step towards admitting one's shortcomings. I was a working-class girl, who didn't know about leisure - my gran used to ask what the matter if she saw me reading a book - and I learned a lot about music, literature, wine and good food." Recently she started to write - a magazine article about her childhood and the first seven chapters of a novel. "I'd like it to be published under another

name and then I would really know if it was received on its own merits. 'Arrogance, arrogance. You've only written seven chapters, girl.' "But I've always wanted to write and I have such a sense of self-satisfaction when I finish anything. Then I wonder - is this all a great dose of self-deception? I don't want to do an actress number." © Times Newspapers Ltd 1986 Misalliance is in preview at the Barbican Theatre, London, from October 2.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

London's pride

The battle between Dr Wendy Savage and the other London Hospital obstetricians has not shaken the faith of pregnant Tower Hamlets women in the hospital's ability to deliver babies with kindness and safety. Professor Gedie Grudzinski, the Australian head of department, told The Times that local patients had been remarkably uncommittal about the affair, and the demand for beds was greater than ever; the patients, he said, had obviously voted with their feet.

Medical Journal and Hospital Doctor. Although working in an area with notoriously poor social conditions, and despite the London Hospital's role as the regional neonatal intensive care unit with a heavy caseload of vulnerable babies, the perinatal mortality rate fell below the national average last year for the first time, and was the lowest ever recorded for the district. Instrumental delivery was used far less than in other areas with a comparable social background. The unit used forceps in 4.6 per cent of deliveries and the Caesarean section rate was 13.6 per cent (in the United States the Caesarean section rate is usually more than 20 per cent.) Both GPs and midwives increased their involvement in the patients' antenatal care and childbirth by 30 per cent.

Use the needle, not the gun

Mr Snell, who has recently bought Ambridge Hall in The Archers, is not alone in being concerned about the danger of spreading viruses such as AIDS and hepatitis B with multidoses injector guns. But whereas Masdi vsna, the AIDS-type disease which affects sheep, is unlikely to prove a problem to David Archer's flock, the gun does represent a hazard when used with people. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people are now carrying AIDS in this country. As a result, Dr Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer, has warned doctors not to give this year's influenza injections in this way, but to use disposable needles and syringes. The medical magazine, Pulse, quotes Professor Arie Zuckerman of The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as saying that the danger from the multidoses gun arises when a patient's blood splashes back on to its nozzle, and is transferred from person to person.

Some 30,000 runners will line up in Hyde Park this Sunday to take part in the Sunday Times annual fun run. Although training is not normally taken seriously, the competitive element is quite strong. As a result, many of those who finish do not look too fit, and might need some first aid treatment. Dr Hugh Bethell, a former registrar in cardiology and now a general practitioner in Tisted, Hampshire, has analysed the training schedule of the runners who collapse in the four-kilometre race and has found that a quarter of those who came to grief had drunk the equivalent of a bottle of wine the night before

Runners with high spirits



the event. Twelve per cent of a control group had also wine and dined well the night before. As the race is always held on a Sunday, the English pattern of a Saturday night out probably accounts for most of the casualties. Others had had a pre-race party to drum up sponsorship. But this year, Dr Bethell hopes the celebrations will be postponed until after the event. He told a meeting of GPs in Oxford that the cause of the collapse was severe low blood pressure, brought on by the combination of alcohol and unaccustomed exercise. Dr Thomas Stuttford

Concluding her series, Lindsay Knight counsels persistence in getting a referral for psychotherapy - and caution in choosing a therapist

Tracking down the talking cure

Having acknowledged that things are not right in their world, many people will first make an appointment with their doctor. What happens next depends to a considerable extent on the individual GP's attitude to psychological problems - is he or she sensitive to picking up such difficulties? GPs have become increasingly aware of their patients' psychological needs and now have at least a very basic training in this area. But there is still a distinct possibility that a patient who is depressed, anxious, not sleeping, will be offered medication - tranquillizers or anti-depressants - and little else by a GP with a packed waiting room. Many doctors do not feel equipped to help in any other way - one of the major criticisms of medical education, from inside and outside the profession, is the fact that it hardly touches on human relationships or psychological problems. Whether you are confronting a GP or a psychiatrist, if you want psychological therapy rather than chemotherapy you may have to be very clear and persistent - admit-

tedly not easy if you are very distressed, in which case you could ask a relative or friend to accompany and support you. If you do want psychotherapy, you can get it on the National Health Service, although unfortunately the service is not uniform nationwide. The private sector offers more options but also a number of dubious practitioners, and the choice should be made with care. On the NHS, whether you will be offered a pill or a "talking cure" is often a matter of luck and where you live. A few progressive individuals or groups in health centres offer sessions with a visiting therapist, or will willingly refer patients for psychotherapy to a psychiatric outpatient department or a hospital psychology department. But the waiting lists may be several months long, and you will have no choice about the psychotherapist offered to you. In the private sector anyone can advertise themselves as a psychotherapist: there is no register of therapists, no agreed training or code of practice. The main route seems to be word of mouth, although GPs or psychiatrists may have some names of reliable therapists, and your local MIND office will have lists of centres and organizations. Before making your choice, it is

important to consider exactly what you want help for, and how much time and money you are prepared to commit to therapy. The British Association of Psychotherapists offers a clinical assessment and referral service for analytical psychotherapy. The assessment is with a professional experienced psychotherapist who will explore with the patient whether psychotherapy is appropriate and feasible; if it does seem so, then a referral is made to another professionally qualified psychotherapist. A fee is charged for this assessment. The BAP assessors try to make a careful match between patient and therapist, although they are often restricted by geography and the shortage of vacancies. Some people will shop around before choosing. You certainly have every right to do this, although the costs might mount up. Everyone I spoke to, therapists and patients alike, emphasized that the key to good therapy was the relationship with the therapist, so the initial choice is important. Obviously you are often at your most vulnerable when you are at the stage of seeking therapeutic help, so you must be careful not to be exploited, either financially or otherwise. It seems safer to avoid any individual psychotherapists who advertise, unless they have



been recommended by others too. "Use your intuition," said Ron Lacey, MIND's campaign director. "It's the quality of the relationship that matters: there is not a lot of evidence that very lengthy training necessarily makes you a better therapist or analyst. Psychotherapy is, by its very nature, an unpredictable business and no psychotherapist can, with certainty, promise great changes or complete removal of symptoms. The research on its effectiveness is still very patchy, as is the work on any harm therapy might cause. Certainly some research has shown that the personality, attitudes, and general social adjustment of the client make far more difference to the outcome of therapy than anything the therapist can do.

The potency of therapists should not be exaggerated, commented a leading psychotherapist; indeed, she added, some therapists are incompetent and potentially harmful. It is widely believed that clients do not do well with therapists who show them coldness or hostility, who tend to ridicule them when trying to be challenging and who use their relationships with patients to satisfy their own ends. Should your therapist consistently show such personal traits, then it is worth considering changing to another. Therapists should not be totally inflexible to their techniques, nor, stressed this therapist, should they set goals for the client which are inappropriate,

unrealistic or not shared by the client. Not surprisingly, research has shown that experienced therapists tend to communicate better, show more empathy, genuineness and positive regard for their clients, take the initiative in therapy to a greater extent and are less distant and exploratory in their interventions. However, they may not always be available or may charge fees somewhat above your price range. And there are advantages in seeing a trainee or newly qualified therapist: enthusiasm (which rates very highly in research studies on the outcome of therapy) and more careful supervision by seniors. © Lindsay Knight 1986

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FIRST PERSON Don't bank on my custom, Mr Jones

In these days of aggressive sales techniques, I can cope calmly and if necessary callously with the unsolicited telephone or doorstep salesman. But a recent experience at my bank left me both quivering with rage and full of irritation with myself for not handling the situation firmly. I must explain in mitigation that my opponent was a young and gagging clerk who, to judge from his manner and profuse perspiration, was not happy with the role his superiors had forced upon him. I can put down without compunction the smooth salesman, but I felt sorry for this lad. I had called in to settle my credit card account, and was told by the cashier that "Our Mr Jones would like to see you" and directed to the inquiry desk. I wasn't at all anxious while I waited for Mr Jones to appear - I knew my account was quite comfortably in the black. I even thought I might take the opportunity to ask about a deposit account, and compare the interest rates with those offered by my building society. When Mr Jones appeared he asked for my name and account number, and whether I had any building society accounts. It was then that I realized the cashier had picked me as a "victim" at random. Mr Jones then launched into a hard sell of the bank's facilities, covering everything from home contents insurance to regular savings schemes. When I explained that I was a freelance, sometimes working for my bank balance for three months at a time, he seemed unable to grasp the fact that regular deductions from my account would not be appropriate. "Surely you could manage

my watch having had no effect. I told him that I was actually in rather a hurry, which flustered him a bit, causing him to repeat some of the things he had already said before going to get the information about deposit accounts which I had requested in the first place. "I don't suppose you'll be investing much - less than £200?" he inquired. He obviously hadn't checked up on my bank balance while away, so I agreed, in the hope of shortening the interview. I actually had £900 to stash away towards the day when I need to replace my car. He handed me a leaflet - "this would be the account you want", I asked him what the current interest rate was, thanked him hastily, and left to go to the building society down the road. His parting remark was one he had obviously made several times before - "I don't suppose your building society ever chats to you like this!" Margaret Griffin

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THE ARTS

Television
Straight talking

Critics of the television documentary often complain that the form too rarely strays beyond a simple journalistic representation in which narrated exposition is interspersed with quotable, talking-head interviews. Last night's *Equinox: Precisely in Profit* (Channel 4), which dealt with the technological miracles possible through miniaturization, used the traditional format with deft effectiveness, as experts explained their theories to a watchful camera, while the off-screen voice of John Hedges guided us carefully from topic to topic.

Although this is, potentially, a dull and old-fashioned way of doing things — rather like those worthy of its *Life* titles one had to sit through at school — it is difficult to envisage an alternative which is both literate and economical. This kind of programme presumes that its audience will sit aside the time to watch and concentrate, and, in these days of pyrotechnic computer graphics and attention-grabbing visual invention, it is refreshing to encounter a documentary which is so straightforward. (BBC1's *Nine O'Clock News* is currently running a title sequence whose riotous design and thunderous music suggest that the next step is a pre-credit teaser and a Shirley Bassey theme-song.)

Most of us know that we owe the Sony Walkman and the compact disc to an increasing scientific ability to construct technological equipment in smaller and smaller sizes. Many of us can remember the wireless, with its large, unreliable valves, and its usefully portable successor, the shrill little transistor radio. *Precisely in Profit* pointed out that miniaturization has more to do with accuracy and efficiency than with smallness.

As incredibly — the atom itself is becoming a workable unit in industrial measurement and construction, scientists can cancel out the formal imperfections of nature in order to bring us equipment of astonishing efficiency and resilience. Rolls-Royce are designing turbine blades to specifications calculated in thousandths of millimetres which may cost \$100,000 off the running costs of each plane that flies the Atlantic. The Inmos transistor, which reduces a computer to the size of a chip, may soon give us machines like Knutrick's Hal 9000, which can talk and see in an eerie simulation of humanity. This was a lucid and absorbing documentary, beautifully organized by the writer/producer Glyn Jones, in a consistently excellent series.

Andrew Rissik

Cinema: new releases in London
A music drama allowed to flow

Otello (U)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

The Legend of Suram Fortress (U)
Camden Plaza

Eleni (PG)
Cannon Haymarket

At first sight it may seem sheer perversity to cut numbers in Verdi's *Otello* as familiar as the Act 1 chorus or Desdemona's Willow Song. It is possible though that Franco Zeffirelli's intention was precisely to frustrate the familiar theatrical expectations in his concern to emphasize how far Verdi had progressed from the conventions of Victorian grand opera which he had helped establish half a century before. The film above all demonstrates how modern was Verdi's new concept of music drama. The freedom of action and movement which the film is uniquely able to provide reveals and enhances the dramatic fluidity of the work.

The major fault is indeed a too-evident straining after this fluidity. Neither the actors nor the camera nor the cutter ever seem to rest. Everything is so constantly, nervously on the move that we can hardly take in the settings, mostly ancient castles and fortresses which Zeffirelli has selected and dressed to marvellous effect. *Otello*'s Cypriot stronghold is a place of windows, loopholes, doorways, passages, holes and corners for lurking and spying, Iago and Otello in turn both enter an ancient domed chapel lit only by a single shaft of light from the roof — the one to deny his God and the other ritually to consign his crucifix to the flames before killing Desdemona.

Musically Lorin Maazel's interpretation seems to my inexperienced ear impeccable: the purists must adjudicate on the ingenious orchestration of the tempest in the Overture and the wind in the last act. The performances explore to the full the rich dramatic and psychological possibilities which Verdi and Boito afford.

Plácido Domingo's Moor has tragic splendour and such realistic conviction that we never question his colour, or think of it as make-up. Justino Diaz creates an Iago of fascinating subtlety, haunted by a demon of mischief, at once denying the existence of a God and defying him. Katia Ricciarelli manages to give a human scale to Desdemona's abused, bewildered, saintly innocence and, though cuts have left Emilia somewhat in the air, Petra Malakova makes a vivid impression in the role.

For some parts Zeffirelli has used off-screen operatic voices mouthed by on-screen actors. This is particularly effective in allowing him to cast an on-screen Cassio (Urbano Barberini, voiced by Ezio di Cesare) whose physical attractions, sensuously caressed by the camera, make him a credible sexual irritant to those around him.

With *The Legend of Suram Fortress* Sergio Paradjanov returns rather unobtrusively to work in the Soviet cinema, after 20 years of ever-worsening difficulties. In 1965 *Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors* brought him both world-wide attention and the first grumblings at home about the obscurity and elitism of his work. In the years between, the only project he was allowed to make was *The Colour of Pomegranates* (1968-69), but that was condemned as "hermetic and obscure", shelved and re-edited. Between 1974 and 1982 Paradjanov served a total of five years in prison. Based on a 19th-century tale of an old folk myth, *The Legend of*



A hero's return in the wet *Otello* (Plácido Domingo) embraces Desdemona (Katia Ricciarelli) observed by Iago (Justino Diaz, left) and the handsome Cassio (Urbano Barberini)

Suram Fortress sets out to do for ancient Georgian lore and legend what *The Colour of Pomegranates* did for the culture of Paradjanov's native Armenia. The story is a symbolic paen to the warriors of every age who sacrifice their lives for their motherland. The King of Georgia commands the building of a fortress against the foreign invaders but, each time the walls reach roof-level, it collapses. A fortune-teller predicts that it will only stand if the most handsome and noble young warrior is bricked up in the wall. A suitably blue-eyed blond youth offers himself for the sacrifice, and the fortress is built.

Once again Paradjanov composes rich and wonderful images out of undulating landscapes, ancient buildings, banners and draperies, folk artefacts and costumes, actors with strange, beautiful, sculpted features, flocks of sheep and cattle, arches and obelisks, ritual incense. The effect is like a series of primitive religious paintings. A pair of hills stand in exact symmetry to frame a scene; a flock of sheep make patterns on the hillside as they flee before the invading enemy, a sailing ship hovers mysteriously in the air, between the ocean and the plain.

There are hints that Paradjanov in this case has had to work his magic with wily spars: means. The strange, horned structures that flank the king's throne prove on close inspection to be four early 20th-century gilt console tables, probably borrowed from the local hotel, and inverted on top of each other. He does not care that behind his hovering ship contemporary vessels are clearly visible. There is a touch of the village pageant.

Peter Yates assaults alien territory in *Eleni*, which is based on a best-seller by the Greek-born *New York Times* journalist, Nicholas... *Eleni* is a story of a young woman who is seduced by a Communist guerrilla leader in the Civil War of the late 1940s. The

film flashes back and forth between the present, with the grown-up Gage (John Malkovich) on his journey, and the suffering village of his childhood. Undoubtedly the kind of horrors the film describes took place. The trouble is that it is very hard to believe anything in the film. Steve Tesich's two-dimensional screenplay removes the Communist terror from any context. Although in the book the village was occupied in turn by both sides, in the film we never glimpse the opposition, vaguely referred to as monarchists or fascists. There is no suggestion of a political background: all we see are black-hearted Communist villains, under an extravagantly satanic leader (Oliver Cotton).

The Greek village has been convincingly enough re-created in Spain; but the formal and stilted dialogue makes it hard to credit its inhabitants, who include principally Kate Nelligan and Linda Hunt.

David Robinson

Richard Morrison reports on disruption in the Huddersfield Choral Society
Another boycott?

An acrimonious row has shaken one of Britain's most venerable musical institutions, marking celebrations of its 150th anniversary. Two weeks ago the Huddersfield Choral Society accepted the resignation of its musical director, Owain Arwel Hughes, after previously rejecting a "him or me" ultimatum from the Welsh conductor, directed against the Huddersfield's chorus-master, Brian Kay.

Now some members are campaigning for Hughes's reinstatement. Tonight a special meeting of all Huddersfield's members will vote on a motion of no confidence in the society's officers and executive committee, over their handling of Hughes's resignation. The officers and committee will themselves resign if the vote goes against them.

The crisis began last May, at a concert by the famous Yorkshire choir, one of several special anniversary events. Hughes, who was appointed in 1980, called the society's officers together and made a request "pertinent to the future musical standard of the choir". That request, only revealed to the rank and file this month, was that Kay be replaced as chorus-master.

According to a choir spokesman, Christine Wilkinson, the society's officers tried to "pour oil on troubled waters". Relations between conductor and chorus-master had been noticeably strained for some time, despite the choir's marked revival of fortunes under their joint regime. There are believed to have been disagreements over policy and over the choir's level of preparation. The relationship between a chorus-master, who prepares the singers up to the last rehearsal, and a conductor, who then adds his "interpretation", is in any case extremely vaguely defined. At Huddersfield, similarities in age and professional standing between the two men may have contributed to the problems.

Hughes, though his critical reputation is uncertain, has won fame as a television popularizer of music. He will, for instance, be appearing on BBC1 each evening for a week next year, presenting extracts from various Requiem settings — a considerable coup. That, plus Hughes's appointment next year as associate conductor of the Philharmonia and his strong relationship with EMI (the Huddersfield's album of hymns, conducted by him, has just attained gold-disc status), is difficult for a choral society to turn its back on. But Kay, a former King's Singers member, is also no stranger to television.

The society's officers told Hughes in August that Kay would not be sacked. A day later Hughes resigned. At tonight's meeting in the King Street Mission (the choir's time-honoured rehearsal room) members now have the awkward choice between starting their new season without any officers and committee, or without a musical director. Huddersfield holds its breath.

Irving Wardle

Theatre: Pintero treated seriously to hilarious effect
Farce played with rare mastery

The Magistrate
Lyttelton

The name of Pintero usually evokes two quite separate playwrights, the first an entertainer who disinfected French farce for the Victorian carriage trade. The other, best known for *The Second Mrs Tanqueray*, is a would-be serious writer, impotently striving to bring Victorian moral idealism to terms with the realities of life.

When Michael Rudman directed *Mrs Tanqueray* at the National Theatre, it turned out to be a much better play than that. And, in this production of Pintero's first farce, he puts paid to the two playwrights. *The Magistrate* is a farce of the best kind, based on a second marriage between a guilelessly doting husband and a woman with a guilty secret. *The Magistrate* occupies the same upper-middle-class world, where there is a rigid division between private and public behaviour and female virtue is like money in the bank.

Paula Tanqueray has an affair to hide. Agatha Posket has passed off her grown-up son as a 14-year-old so as to enhance her market value. One is a theme for drama and the other for farce, but their motives and the social disgrace they face are identical.

This is by far the funniest Pintero production I have seen, and its secret is to play the text as though it were not a farce at all. There are no super-energetic figures bounding on to identify the stage as farce. The pace throughout is measured and deliberate, with no frantic accelerations. Characters are treated as steadily earnest, and it is their pursuit of ruling obsessions that reduces the audience to occasional helpless laughter. Such a style is always being laid down as the basic rule for farce, but it is very seldom that you see a production with the nerve to carry it out.

It also yields the striking, if minor, gain of admitting sex into Pintero's supposedly posset-less comedy. Up goes the curtain on *Cap Tomes's* different notion of what stardom should be. Harry is disgusted by the macho talk of his son-in-law and paratrooper friends. His knowledge of Korea pierces their oafish comradeship and frontier-town belligerence. But he ends the evening endorsing their values, in his own qualified way. If he is a small man with a conscience, something of the soldier still clings to him, and he has never forgotten those simple combat movies on which he grew up.

Pintero's writing, sometimes makes too much of this theme, and the characters speak with a grandiose vibrato that is often uncomfortably close to parody. Like so much naturalistic folk theatre, *War Pictures* comes at us in a wash of emotion, and it has the robust sentimentality of an English drinking song. But, it is well directed by Chris Martin, who arranges the action in flowing tableaux and matches it seamlessly to pleasantly satirical snatches of Hollywood music. Brian Hickey plays Harry with hamdog pathos, and, in a reliable supporting cast, Polly Taylor makes something touching and funny of his vulgar, faithless wife.

The play's skill is the way in which it makes Harry's dilemma his quiet self-disgust into a matter for theatrical action and spectacle. As his wife betrays him, as friends grove their fickle worth, as these unheroic characters scramble for the dignity of fine sentiments and noble ideals, we see what Hollywood and the cinema offers them. In their messy, complicated lives they long for the consolations of primary-colour romance and great-hearted adventure. They would all like to be stars, though each of them has a

strangely broadened living-room, reaching a Brit music mistress (Claire Parker) at the Broadway imploring a kiss on the lips of young Cis (Griselda Henderson); for the duration of a prolonged trill, thus evoking all the secret stirrings of Victorian music lessons. It is the pace that achieves this effect; likewise his mother's speech on how he has been fondled by every lady who drops in for tea. Examine the slyest and it is steamy.

Set, of course, plays no part in the decline and fall of the luckless hero. Mr Posket fully embodies the Victorian ideal as a pillar of society and a kind family man; there is no suggestion that he is acting out any guilty fantasy when he joins Cis for a disastrous night out in the Meek Street Hotel. But in Nigel Hawthorne's marvellous performance the part does take on a satiric edge which puts it even beyond the long shadow of Alastair Sim.

At home, Hawthorne's Posket is a blissful innocent, pliable even with his servants, and absolute putty in the hands of his gambling, hell-raising stepson. But see him after the night out, crawling back into the Meek Street Hotel, and gradually resuming the majesty of the law, the mild, beaming features conformed into self-righteous fury as he informs his arrested friend, Lukyn (Donald Pickering) that the events in court may oblige him to cancel his evening's dinner engagement.

As Hawthorne rises to his climax he dons a pair of pince-nez and collapses in agony, as his adventures have left him

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with a scarred nose: a superb detail that precisely encapsulates the contradiction of private and public life. The surrounding characters share this kind of fanaticism, which is constantly tripping them up; whether it be Alison Fisk's baritone-voiced Charlotte, torn between displaying winning dignity and succumbing to her lust for food; or Gemma Craven's Agatha, winding up a long sequence of sweetly turned lies with a piercing scream on discovering that she is up before her husband in court.

If there is one factor that defines the show's quality it is Ken Stott's performance of the police inspector who raids the hotel: a courteous, unburied official, handily taking down all the files from Mr Pickering and Nicholas le Prevost, and slowly lifting a whistle to his lips. There is no hue and cry. He barely moves; but he certainly makes the others jump about.

Irving Wardle

Music in London

classical sonata form, though not without a rubato which, however, stayed well within the bounds of acceptability. Thus Fate's inexorable march stole up on one with curious stealth, and certainly without inducing much sense of foreboding.

Perhaps, one thought, the orchestra had become too familiar with the music, and certainly the tameness, the very neatness of the Scherzo, which normally bites with sharp irony in the course of its grim martial stride, indicated as much. Indeed, the point of this movement seemed to be the Trio section, here again a somewhat easygoing *Ländler* rather than something grotesque and larger than life. We were being edged gently towards the nostalgic inward passions of the slow movement, where the glowing, cultivated sound of the Phil-

harmonic's playing evoked an atmosphere of calm resolution, albeit in a key as far remote from the foregoing A minor as it is possible to be. Need the finale have been played at all?

The answer was most definitely yes, for Sinopoli had saved his trump card for the moment. He had been leading us into a false sense of security, as the slow movement's total remoteness should have told us, but now was the time to shock us with the ultimate reality of death. By the cataclysmic end one's senses had been buffeted into total submission. There was no possible escape, and the pain had been made the more unendurable by the cruel mildness of what had gone before. Either this was a clever, if controversial, re-interpretation, or the Philharmonia had simply worked up in the nick of time. Whichever, it worked.

Asleep or not, technically the orchestra was on fire. One of the most striking things in the reading was the positive playing of the harps; scarcely a note from these easily swamped instruments did not penetrate the texture in the finale. And such was the general sureness of touch that it seems inevitable the Philharmonia will again set the standard in London this season.

Stephen Pettitt

Rock

Cameo
Hammersmith
Odeon

Larry Blackmon, the leader of Cameo and a rapidly developing name in the Atlanta music community, has been ringing the changes since his group's visit here last December. The volume has gone down, the dancing has improved, dramatically, and he has acquired a large shiny red copciece that has become the talk of the town.

This ostentatious appendage, which almost caused the group to be thrown off *Top of the Pops*, is an appropriate symbol for the sinuous, virtile approach that they now emphasize. The main pelvic thrust, which it throws into such stark relief, usually underlined a sexual reference in the lyrics, and in "Word Up" and the consummate "Single Life" the thick, economic funk riffs poked through with little insistence.

But before Blackmon and his co-vocalists, Nathan Lefant and Thomas Jenkins, settled into this groove there was an odd preamble incorporating snatches of previous Cameo incarnations chosen at random from their 10-year back catalogue: a blast of "black rock 'n' roll", a moment of big-band soul, a brief drum solo, a couple of metal guitar breaks and even a cod-reggae tribute to Bob Marley.

The 10-piece backing band played with all the fire and discipline that the Cameo trio in front put into their arresting dance routines. Even with four keyboard players and a horn section at work there was no musical clutter to distract from the sharp rhythms fueling the vocalists' hip-hop aerobic steps as they waded into a unison rap. "You're Talking Out of the Side of Your Neck."

But Blackmon's complaint of feeling hoarse was reflected in his vocal performance and, one suspects, led to the conclusion of the show after less than an hour, when all the best elements of their act were beginning to crystallize.

David Sinclair

Philharmonia/
Sinopoli
Festival Hall

Mahler's Sixth Symphony was the first work that I heard Giuseppe Sinopoli conduct. Then, with the same orchestra and in the same hall as Wednesday night's performance, the overriding impression of his reading was of a relentless cut and thrust and nervous tension utterly fitting for such devastating music.

But on his return to the work in the opening concert of the Philharmonia Orchestra's season he at first — indeed for most of the work's duration — seemed to have toned down the drama to a respectably Brucknerian level. The first movement went on its way a shade complacently, played almost like a straightforward

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STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1242.3 (-22.2) FT-SE 100 1575.9 (-27.5) Bargains 20860

USM (Datastream) 122.94 (-0.27)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4335 (-0.0125) W German mark 2.9365 (-0.0235) Trade-weighted 68.7 (-0.7)

BET wins control

BET, the industrial services group, yesterday won its £109 million contested bid for HAT, the printing group...

Wimpey up

George Wimpey's turnover dipped from £657 million to £634 million in the first half of this year...

Tootal ahead

Tootal, the textiles group, raised taxable profits in the six months ending July 31 to £10.1 million from £9.7 million...

RMC rises

RMC Group, the building materials producer, reported a 30 per cent increase in pretax profits to £32.1 million for the six months to June 30...

Shares halted

After share price movements, Property Trust directors yesterday asked the Stock Exchange to suspend dealings pending a circular to shareholders about a number of conditional acquisitions and other proposals.

Williams wins

The offer on behalf of Williams Holdings for London and Midland Industrials has been declared fully unconditional. Acceptances have been received for 61.65 per cent.

Team view

Courtauld has formed a team to examine performance and long-term growth. The members are Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, Mr Mike Woodhouse, Mr Allan Nightingale, Mr Eryl Morris and Mr Sipko Huismans.

Co News 18.21 Traded Opts 19 Commercial 19 Warrants 28 Stock Market 19 Wall Street 28 Money Mkts 19 Unit Trusts 22 Sydney: A.O 1250.3 (+14.4) Frankfurt: Commerzbank 1995.2 (-17.5) Brussels: Generali 3704.34 (+7.32) Paris: CAC 389.3 (+1.5) Zurich: SKA General 520.0 (Same) London closing prices Page 23

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York Dow Jones 1773.34 (-29.55) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 17988.35 (+32.88) Hang Kong 2011.70 (+3.40) Amsterdam: Gen 389.0 (-2.3) Sydney: A.O 1250.3 (+14.4) Frankfurt: Commerzbank 1995.2 (-17.5) Brussels: Generali 3704.34 (+7.32) Paris: CAC 389.3 (+1.5) Zurich: SKA General 520.0 (Same) London closing prices Page 23

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10% 3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2% 3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2% buying rate US: Prime Rate 7.50% Federal Funds 5 1/4-5 1/2% 3-month Treasury Bills 5.23-5.22% 30-year bonds 9 5/8-9 5/8

CURRENCIES

London: New York £: \$1.4335 \$: £0.6983 DM: 2.9365 S: Index 110.9 ECU 20.706971 SDR 20.834519

Norton Opax bids £28m more for McCorquodale

Just 24 hours after receiving Monopolies Commission approval, Norton Opax, the printing group, yesterday made a new and final bid for rival specialist printer, McCorquodale. The latest terms - a one-for-two share swap - value McCorquodale at £138.5 million, a substantial increase on the £110 million offered last time. The stage is now set for a short, sharp and acrimonious battle. Norton intends that it will last no longer than 21 days from the date its official offer is published, probably next week, though it reserves the right to extend if necessary. "We want to bring this affair to a close now," said Mr Richard Hanwell, chief executive of Norton Opax. But the McCorquodale board is even more determined to resist what is seen as an opportunist bid than it was last time. Mr John Holloran, managing director, said yesterday: "The two businesses are totally different. Merging them would do a good deal of damage, and we intend to fight the proposals vigorously." The stock market regards Norton's latest bid as an ambitious move by an aggressively run company. The group is proposing to issue three times its current share capital to capture McCorquodale. Sub-underwriting of the issue was completed yesterday. "It went very well," said a spokesman for Samuel Montagu, financial advisers to Norton Opax. Norton's profits have increased from £140,000 to £5.2 million over the past five years while earnings per share have increased eightfold. Growth has been achieved organically and by acquisition. The first offer for McCorquodale was made in March, and a month later it was referred to the Monopolies Commission. Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on Wednesday approved the MMC findings that the merger would not operate against the public interest. But the major clearing banks submitted evidence to the commission that they were lukewarm about a deal which would bring together two suppliers of personalized cheque books. McCorquodale earned more than a quarter of its profits from cheque and allied printing last year and clearly it would suffer most in the event of a merger if the banks and building societies took some of their business elsewhere. McCorquodale's Mr Holloran is also unhappy about the extent to which Norton's profits arise from printing of lottery tickets, which he regards as "poor quality business, with a good deal of overcapacity." The terms of the offer are two Norton Opax shares for one of McCorquodale. With Norton Opax shares down 13p to 133p, the deal values McCorquodale shares at 266p each. In the market they rose slightly to close in line with the bid terms. Samuel Montagu has arranged a cash alternative of 260p for each McCorquodale share. With the details of its new offer Norton Opax provided a forecast of £5.8 million profits for the year to March, 1987 compared with £5.2 million last time. Dividends are forecast to increase 14 per cent over the same period. Comment, page 19



Shake-up at Rover

Mr Harold Masgrove, above, chairman and chief executive of Austin-Rover, was the main casualty in Rover management changes announced yesterday. He retires after 40 years with the group. Mr Mark Snowden, right, managing director for product development, also leaves. Mr Graham Day takes over as chairman of all the chief subsidiaries. Comment, page 19



Threat to loan rates as pound slides further

Fears that interest rates may have to rise resurfaced yesterday as the pound continued its steady decline against most currencies, hitting a record low on the sterling trade-weighted index despite renewed support from the Bank of England. Meanwhile, stock markets in London and New York dropped sharply as economic uncertainty built up in advance of the Group of Five meeting in Washington today. Sterling weakened against most currencies, but its largest falls were against the dollar and the mark. There were growing expectations that interest rates would have to rise to prevent a sudden collapse in the currency. A rise in interest rates at this stage would be politically embarrassing to the Government ahead of the huge British Gas share flotation in November. Traders believe the Bank of England intervened to support the pound at lunchtime, but to little effect, and sterling's decline accelerated. After an opening of about \$1.4465 in London, the pound sank by 1.2 cents against the dollar to finish at 1.4340. Against the mark it dropped three pence from DM2.9680 to close at DM2.9370. Other currencies also advanced against the pound, leaving the sterling trade-weighted index down seven points from 69.4 to 68.7. The mark remained steady against most international currencies after the Bundesbank's decision at its fortnightly meeting yesterday not to alter its credit policy, although it weakened slightly against the dollar. At the same time, a combination of factors helped to push down share prices in London and New York. Mr Tim Brown, of the stockbroker Phillips & Drew, said: "The market is nervous, but we are not seeing a panic. The fall was mainly due to a lack of buyers rather than a wave of selling." The FT-30 share index dropped 18.5 points to close at 1,246.1. The London stock market opened steady after a firm close in New York on Wednesday, but the downward momentum gathered pace as New York opened sharply weaker yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell by nearly 40 points to 1,765.04. Some traders blamed the fall on programme selling by big investors. "That is the only way to interpret this kind of volatility," said one. But there was also less hope of further discount rate cuts following the Bundesbank's decision not to alter German interest rates. The fall follows three days of steady increases fuelled by hopes of a discount rate cut. Uncertainty over the strength of US economic growth also helped to depress the market.

Canon may set up base in Britain

Canon, the Japanese photocopier manufacturer, may set up a software research and development base in Britain as part of its expansion programme in Europe. Mr Yasuyuki Matsuda, a director of Canon (UK), said yesterday that talks were being held about the possibility of establishing a research base, perhaps as a joint venture with a British university. But he could not say when this might happen. Canon has a strong European presence. Its manufacturing facilities in Germany and France have been expanded recently to assemble 10 new copier models. Two of the models represent Canon's first entry into the lucrative high volume market, which is presently dominated by Rank Xerox, IBM and Kodak. Canon aims to replace 40 per cent of machines with these new models which can produce more than 70 copies a minute. These machines are exempt from the 15.8 per cent anti-dumping import duty and will be manufactured in Japan. The other eight models will be manufactured in either Europe or Korea and should not be subject to the duty. Mr Yukio Yamashita, managing director of Canon (UK), said: "We have not finally decided how we will respond to the levy." A Japanese investment research group, due in Britain next month, will include representatives of some of the country's biggest and most successful companies. Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Citizen, Pioneer, Fuji and Casio will be some of the companies represented by the visiting group. The representatives, travelling to Britain at British expense, will visit only the areas in which they are most interested. A similar mission last year resulted in three new investments.

SEC ready to shorten leash on computer trading

A big review of the role of computers in Wall Street is being carried out after complaints from many traders that they are at the root of the volatile price swings that have become almost commonplace this year. The Securities and Exchange Commission says that it is considering new regulations to curb the growth of 'program trading' by which computers are preset to issue buy or sell orders on huge amounts of stocks without human intervention or ratification. Commission officials are said to have been shaken by the 120 point crash in the Dow Jones industrial average two weeks ago and that is why they are studying carefully complaints by investors about stock values being driven down artificially. On a normal day computer programs are thought to control between 10 and 25 per cent of all stock trading on American exchanges. During the record drop on September 11, the machines are thought to have accounted for as much as 40 per cent of trading. Opinion on Wall Street is divided. Supporters of computer trading say that it adds impetus only to existing trends. Though changes seem more volatile all the computers are doing is concentrating into a single day market corrections which used to take days, even weeks. Opponents argue that such wild fluctuations frighten small investors out of the market and that computers have brought about the development of a new type of trading which has made ordinary stocks take on the swift, wide swings which once characterised only commodities. The speed and sophistication of computers has enabled traders to take advantage of price variations which in the pre-electronic age days would have been considered too insignificant. Several options to bring the situation under control are being considered by the commission. From Paul Valley, New York

Funeral company for USM

Death is becoming big business for the stock market. Great Southern Group, one of the country's leading suppliers of funeral services, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a value of £13.1 million. This makes it the third quoted funeral directors after Kenyon Securities and Hodgeson Holdings. Great Southern has grown, like its rivals, by snapping up the small family-run companies that account for about 65 per cent of the total market. Mr Ernest Field, the chairman of Great Southern, says that a stock market listing will enable the company to make more acquisitions. Pretax profits have risen steadily from just over £1 million in 1981 to £1.3 million last year and the directors forecast an outcome of £1.6 million for 1986. A total of 2.2 million shares, which is 22.7 per cent of the capital, are being placed at 135p a share by Hill Samuel, the merchant banker, to raise £2.54 million. The rest of United's domestic operations proved to be something of a mixed bag. Consumer and advertising magazines, which include Punch and Exchange & Mart, put in a strong performance and the regional newspaper division showed growth. United's American interests, which range from Fodor's travel guides to a press news service, also showed improved profits. However some of the specialist business magazines suffered from stiff competition for advertising in their half. United maintained its interim dividend at 6p. By Cliff Feltham

Group of Five exchange rate agreement likely

The Group of Five finance ministers and central bankers, meeting in Washington today, are expected to agree on a framework for preserving exchange rates around present levels. The five - the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan and France - will strive for closer co-ordination of economic policy through the use of indicators of economic performance. They may also - with the agreement of Canada and Italy which, with the five, make up the new Group of Seven - signal a willingness to maintain currency levels by concerted intervention. The Group of Five meeting, which comes after public wrangles between the US and Germany over interest rates, will discuss the work of officials on key indicators of economic performance. At the May world economic summit in Tokyo it was agreed to examine a range of ten indicators, including inflation, growth, the balance of payments, money supply and government deficits, with a view to co-ordinating policy on the basis of the performance of these indicators. The difficulty with this approach, if it is given the go-ahead today, is that it will start from a position of marked world economic imbalances, notably the trade and budget deficits in the US and the large trade surpluses of Japan and Germany. The European members of the Group of Five will be putting pressure on the Americans to take further action on the budget deficit, and to shift the focus away from competitive interest rate reductions. The participants are also likely to press for dollar depreciation against newly industrialized countries such as Taiwan and South Korea. From David Smith, Washington

£1.2m loss at poster company

London and Continental Advertising Holdings, the poster hoarding group, slumped to a £1.2 million pretax loss in the first half of this year, after gearing up for an improvement in the poster business which failed to arrive. The company, which made profits of £1.4 million in the same period last year, had expected an improvement in the second half. The chairman, Mr John Goffar, said: "In the event, this has not been realized to date, but group overheads had been increased in anticipation of much greater volumes of business than are being experienced." Some of the group's workers are to be made redundant under a cost reduction programme. London is passing its interim dividend, having paid £0.75p at this stage last year. Its shares, down from a peak of 185p this year, slid a further 25p to 58p after the results.

Profits surprise from United Newspapers

United Newspapers, the diversified publishing group which acquired Fleet Holdings for £317 million last October, surprised the City yesterday by announcing pretax profits of £22.5 million for the first half of 1986. The figures, which compared with £19.3 million last year when United held only a minority stake in Fleet, were at the top end of expectations and boosted United shares by 25p to 370p, recouping recent losses. Mr Graham Wilson, United's finance director, said that the results were helped by the comparative ease with which the group reduced its labour force on the Daily Express, the Sunday Express and The Star. No production was lost as 2,000 full-time employees left the company in return for a £65 million redundancy package. The redundancies, with the introduction of photo-composition, should save about £48 million a year. Mr Wilson said the national titles had roughly broken even in the first half but were now trading profitably. However, he admitted United was still trying to improve the circulation of the three papers, which all showed slight falls in the first half compared with the same period last year. The rest of United's domestic operations proved to be something of a mixed bag. Consumer and advertising magazines, which include Punch and Exchange & Mart, put in a strong performance and the regional newspaper division showed growth. United's American interests, which range from Fodor's travel guides to a press news service, also showed improved profits. However some of the specialist business magazines suffered from stiff competition for advertising in their half. United maintained its interim dividend at 6p. By Richard Lander

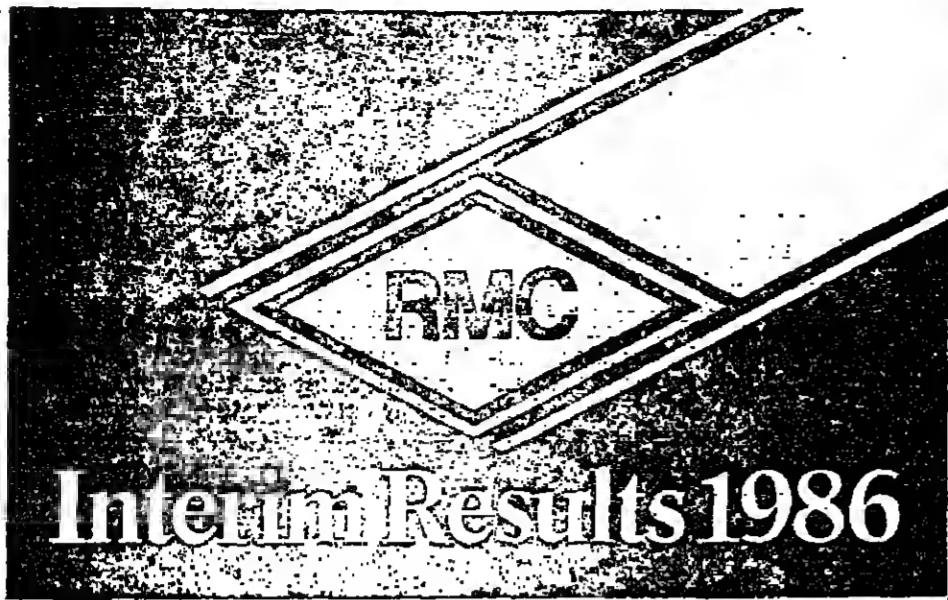
Glimmer of hope from the Bank

The Bank of England in its latest Quarterly Bulletin gives a cautiously optimistic view of the outlook for the world economy. It is closer to the views of the German Bundesbank which believes that world growth is now returning than that of the United States administration which wants to see lower interest rates. The Bank says that monetary conditions are difficult to interpret. Although the broader definitions of the money supply have grown faster than the target rates and sterling has been under pressure, narrowly defined money and interest rates remain high. On balance it believes that there seems to be little scope for "unilateral relaxation". The pause in growth in the world economy during the first half of this year is now thought to be almost over and the outlook for the next 12-18 months could be for a sharp acceleration. The Bank believes that a number of countries are in a position to take expansionary measures if these hopes are confirmed by developments in the second half of this year. But it is pessimistic about the prospect of renewed growth bringing down unemployment in Britain. High pay settlements continue to frustrate hopes of longer-term reductions. In a study of the combined effect of lower oil prices and a lower exchange rate, the Bank concludes that over time the changes should benefit the current account balance of payments despite recent trade deficits. The Bank made clear yesterday that it did not see any need for the pound to depreciate further in order to improve the trade balance. If anything, sterling should recover a bit of ground.

Combined English pays £19m

Combined English Stores, the Salford-based group, snatched another chunk of the high street jewellery business yesterday when it paid £19 million for 107 shops belonging to the Time Products group, trading under the names of J. Weir, Harris, McGowan, and Montague. CES has only just paid £26 million for Zales Jewellers and is now second in size only to the Rainers-H. Samuel chain. Time Products says it was this deal which made it decide to pull out of the high street. Chief executive Marcus Margulies says Time Products would have been forced to expand aggressively. Instead, it intends to concentrate on its watch manufacturing and distribution business. Both companies yesterday unveiled half time figures. Time Products reported profits before tax of £1.3 million compared with £728,000. CES announced that pre-tax profits were up from £3.4 million to £4.9 million.

FRAMLINGTON GROWTH RATES The average annual compound rate of growth in the price of units (on an offer-to-bid basis) of each of our capital growth funds between launch and 1st September 1986 was as follows: Fund Launched Growth Capital Jan 69 +15.5% p.a. International Growth Oct 76 +26.2% p.a. American & General Apr 78 +19.9% p.a. American Turnaround Oct 79 +23.9% p.a. Recovery Apr 82 +25.7% p.a. Japan & General Feb 84 +25.8% p.a. European Feb 86 +55.9% p.a. Every one of these Framlington funds has outperformed the FT All-Share Index, the Dow-Jones Industrial Average and the Standard and Poors Composite Index. Each fund is fully described in the Framlington Unit Trust Guide 1986. For a free copy, send us this coupon: To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC2B 2DL. Please send me a copy of the Framlington Unit Trust Guide 1986. Name Address FRAMLINGTON



Financial Highlights

| | 6 months to 30.6.86 | 6 months to 30.6.85 | Year to 31.12.85 |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Turnover | 637.4 | 601.8 | 1363.8 |
| Operating Profit | | | |
| United Kingdom | 23.7 | 20.9 | 56.0 |
| West Germany | 1.7 | 0.4 | 12.1 |
| Other countries | 11.8 | 9.9 | 22.6 |
| | 37.2 | 31.2 | 90.7 |
| Profit before taxation | 35.1 | 25.4 | 79.7 |
| Earnings per share | 19.9p | 14.7p | 45.3p |

Dividend The Directors have decided to declare an interim dividend of 5.0p per share (1985 4.6p per share) payable on 1 December 1986 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 31 October 1986.

RMC Group p.l.c.

RMC House, High Street, Felknam, Middlesex TW13 4HA.

Hotels 'face chaos over tax changes'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Britain's hotels, many with earnings under pressure from the scarcity of American tourists this year, face two tax changes in November which could also hit profits.

One change, in the way value-added tax rules are applied to conferences and exhibitions, is causing confusion among hoteliers. The British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers Association is telling its members to consider taking professional advice.

It fears "considerable chaos" as the change in rules approaches, because many hoteliers may not realize the implications of the changes. When they do there is likely to be an increased pressure for the November 1 start date to be postponed until next year.

Where conferences and exhibitions are held in purpose-built centres, offering no bedroom accommodation, the situation is comparatively straightforward with the main facilities, except for meals, being exempted from VAT.

But hotels with conference and exhibition facilities have stayed within the VAT system, enabling them to pass on to customers a proportion of VAT charges.

Many hotels will lose the advantages of being wholly within the VAT system, making them partially exempt businesses, but with the detail often differing in individual cases.

Another change facing hotels is the removal of a concession which meant block bookings by holiday tour operators were treated as long-term rentals which do not attract VAT.

From November, VAT will be levied on these

Honeywell in computer link talks

By Lawrence Lever

Minneapolis (Reuter) - Honeywell, the United States computer company, is holding talks with two foreign companies about combining their computer businesses.

The discussions - there had been considerable speculation that they were taking place - involve Groupe Bull of France and NEC of Japan, companies with which Honeywell has been closely associated.

The announcement came after several sharp one-day gains in Honeywell's stock after analysts predicted a major restructuring. Honeywell was up \$1 1/4 to \$73 in active morning trading yesterday. Honeywell said the restructuring would allow it to concentrate on its more profitable operations - automation and control equipment and aerospace and defence contracts.

Tax relief delays hit BES deals

By Lawrence Lever

Delays by the Inland Revenue in briefing local tax inspectors over the new rules for the Business Expansion Scheme are blocking companies seeking to raise money under the scheme and denying investors tax relief.

The delays are likely to cause considerable disquiet within the Treasury since Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, deliberately highlighted the BES in his Budget speech and is an ardent public supporter of the scheme.

The BES allows investors tax relief on their investments in a broad range of unquoted companies. The scheme was substantially revised in this year's Finance Act.

Mr John Dodwell, the managing director of Chancery Corporate Services, an established sponsor of BES companies, said yesterday that the Inland Revenue is currently denying tax relief to shareholders in one of his BES issues who invested after the budget when the new regime was announced.

In addition, a number of accountancy firms claim that the local inspectorate is refusing to grant provisional BES approval to companies seeking to raise money under the scheme in all but the most clear cut of cases.

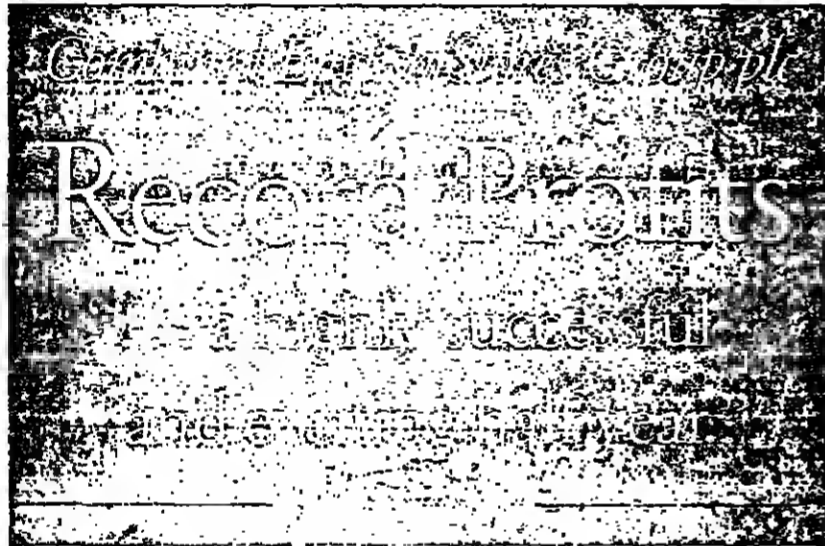
In both situations the delays are caused because the local inspectors are refusing to take decisions until they have received new guidance notes on the BES from the technical division of the Inland Revenue.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue confirmed yesterday that the guidelines had not been sent

COMPANY NEWS

- **CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION:** Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend increased to 4p (2.5p) to reduce the disparity between payments. It will be paid on Nov. 7. Turnover £35.77 million (£32.79 million). Pretax profit £5.31 million (£2.56 million). Earnings per share 13p (5.7p).
- **W & R JACOB:** Interim dividend 2.3p (2p) for the 28 weeks to July 11. Pretax profit £234,000 (£271,000), against £231,500 (£274,200). Earnings per share (adjusted for rights issue) 3.3p (2.9p). The board expects good profits growth to the current year.
- **EUCALYPTUS PULP MILLS:** Half-year to June 30. Turnover £14.49 million (£13.52 million). Pretax profit £1.92 million (£2.32 million). Earnings per share 46.3p (48.1p).
- **BENTALLS:** Half-year to Aug. 2. Interim dividend 0.44p (0.4p). Turnover (excluding VAT) £29.03 million (£27.8 million). Pretax profit £122,000 (£113,000). Earnings per share 1.11p (1.21p).
- **ALEXANDERS HOLDINGS:** Terms have been agreed with Murray International Holdings (which with associates now holds 8.2 per cent of the ordinary capital) for the disposal of a property in Edinburgh. The sale price is £980,000, payable next March. This will result in a surplus of £200,000 over book value.
- **ABERDEEN CONSTRUCTION:** Interim dividend 2.4p (2.3p) for the half-year to June 30, payable on Nov. 21. Turnover £47.78 million (£47.58 million). Pretax profit £1.64 million (£1.44 million). Earnings per share 6.24p (5.10p).
- **NOBLE AND LUNN:** Pretax profit for the first half of 1986 £344,000 (£48,000 loss). Turnover £5.19 million (£4.64 million). Interim dividend held at 0.35p. Earnings per share: basic 4.46p (0.75p loss) and fully diluted 3.56p (0.75p loss).
- **WHATMAN REEVE ANGEL:** Interim dividend 1p - a 21.95 per cent increase. Turnover for the first half of 1986 £16.94 million (£16.99 million). Pretax profit £3.1 million (£2.66 million). Earnings per share 8.33p (6.51p).
- **MAL:** Year to June 30. Total dividend 17.5p (16p). Turnover £222.05 million (£171.57 million). Pretax profit £40.03 million (£27.44 million). Earnings per share 48.1p (41.6p). The buoyant conditions of the second half of last year have continued into the current year, the board declares. All divisions are enjoying active markets and good demand.
- **SANDHURST MARKET-DING:** Six months to July 31. Interim dividend unchanged at 3.89 per cent. Turnover £15.89 million (£14.04 million). Pretax profit £601,000 (£610,000). Earnings per share 1.28p (1.28p) and diluted 1.35p (1.35p).
- **FERRY PICKERING GROUP:** Total dividend for the year to June 30 raised to 3.5p (2.72p adjusted). Turnover £12.58 million (£11.63 million). Pretax profit £2.09 million (£1.6 million). Earnings per share 10.79p (8.05p adjusted).
- **HIGHCROFT INVESTMENT TRUST:** Interim dividend raised to 1p (0.9p), payable on Nov. 7. Pretax profit £246,387 (£181,083) for the six months to June 30. Earnings per share 2.97p (2.07p).
- **DOWDING & MILLS:** Total dividend for the year to June 30 raised to 1.58p (1.4p). Turnover £28.39 million (£25 million). Pretax profit £4.13 million (£3.51 million). Earnings per share 3.86p (3.15p). The board is confident that earnings will again improve in the current year.
- **CORTON BEACH:** Pretax profits jumped by 108 per cent to £302,190 in the 26 weeks to Aug. 2. Turnover reached £7.63 million - up 97 per cent. Earnings per share increased by 64 per cent to 1.12p. The company aims to return to the dividend list and a final for the current is expected.
- **F & C PACIFIC INVESTMENT TRUST:** Half-year to July 31. Interim dividend 0.6p (same). Total revenue £1.95 million (£1.71 million). Earnings per share 1.14p (1.42p).
- **GIBBON LYONS GROUP:** Agreement has been reached for the acquisition of Eden Colours. The founder-members of Eden are remaining with the company, which will continue to supply printers in Kent, Sussex and south London with its Europa series of process inks and specialist colours.
- **ASSET TRUST:** First half of 1986. Interim payment 1p (0.75p), payable on Nov. 17. Turnover £298,000. Pretax profit £518,797. No comparative figures have been shown as the company has changed its status from an authorized investment trust to a fund-management business. The company now manages £140 million of funds for private clients and institutions.
- **ASTBURY & MADELEY:** First half of 1986. Interim dividend 1.25p (1.125p), payable on Nov. 28. Turnover £13.39 million (£12.52 million). Pretax profit £1 million (£891,000). Earnings per share 6.77p (5.63p).
- **RAMAR TEXTILES:** Dividend raised to 1.75p (1.65p) for the year to May 30. It will be paid on Jan. 8. Turnover £24.55 million (£21.02 million). Pretax profit £934,000 (£750,000). Earnings per share: basic 4.75p (5.29p) and fully diluted 3.71p (4.14p).

More company news on page 21



Interim Highlights
23 weeks ended 9 August 1986

| Unaudited | 1986 | 1985 | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Profit before tax | | | |
| before deducting the share of losses of the Group's associates | +09 | £5.47m | £3.45m |
| after deducting the Group's share of losses | +03 | £4.93m | £3.45m |
| Earnings | | | |
| per Ordinary share | +34 | 4.98p | 3.71p |
| Dividend | | | |
| per Ordinary share | +22 | 3.0p | 2.45p |

With the addition of the Department of Health's low-alcohol chains, acquired since the year end, the Group now operates 5 major retailing divisions in the UK, Ireland and West Germany, including:

- Schottky's Handbags*
- Collingwood and Zales Jewellers*
- Allens Chemists*
- Biba Fashion Group (West Germany)*
- Priggi Fashion Group*

These divisions currently have 750 outlets. Through organic growth alone, that number is planned to increase to 1,100 over the next few years.

If you would like a copy of the 1986 Annual Report, please apply to:
The Company Secretary
Combined English Stores Group plc
14 City Street
London W1H 7HS
Telephone 01-424 1131

Combined English Stores Group plc

OUR MAIN objectives in recent years, those of improved competitiveness coupled with a programme of investments in new products, have combined to produce another set of excellent figures

DAVID DONNE CHAIRMAN

| HALF YEAR TO 30TH JUNE | 1986 | 1985 | INCREASE |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| PROFITS BEFORE TAXATION | £18.81m | £16.099m | +17% |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE | 18.88p | 15.65p | +21% |



STETLEY PLC GATEFORD HILL, WORASOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE S81 8AT

مكنايم الانعام

A relief delay... it BE'S deals.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Share prices in 22-point fall as nervous investors sell

By Carol Leonard

The stock market took another nosedive yesterday with traders looking in vain to the Bank of England and the foreign exchange markets for some form of lead.

As sterling weakened still further, despite heavy intervention by the Bank of England, gilts lost about £1 across the medium and long-dated stocks and 2% in the shorts.

Equity traders were left wondering which way to turn

Mr Terry Ramsden, the financier, has now sold his stake in Pearson - believed to be about 4 per cent - and says he "no longer has any interest." There is talk that he has sold the holding to interested parties in the Far East - who include Mr Li Ka-shing, the chairman of Hutchison Whampoa and Sir Y K Pao, the Hong Kong shipping magnate.

next. One experienced market man commented: "I've been in this game for a long time and I've never under stood it less."

The FT 30 share index began the day down 5.8 and finished at its lowest point, 22.2 points down at 1,242.3.

The FT-SE 100 share index showed an even bleaker picture, tumbling by 27.5 points to 1,575.9.

Datastream, which operates a 1,000-share index, said it had fallen by 13.48 points to 874.11 by 5 pm - wiping £4.5 billion off the value of stocks.

Among leading blue chips, Royal Insurance was hit hardest, dropping 25p to 792p, with jobbers aware that the 500,000 shares bought by Goldman Sachs as part of the Philip Hill Investment Trust

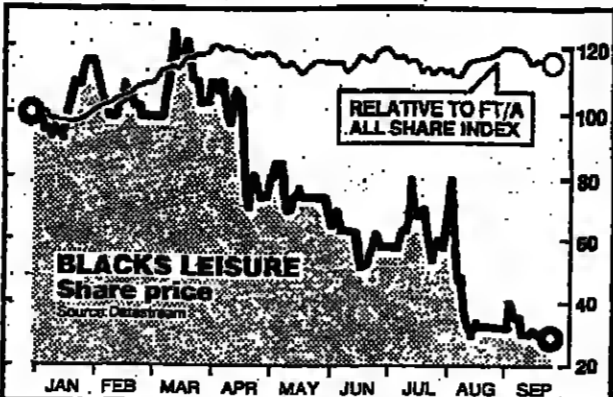
package were still overhanging the market.

American favourite, Glaxo tumbled a further 22p to 930p, ICI fell 15p to 1,077p, GKN was down 10p at 254p and so was Blue Circle at 551p, despite talk that AJ Bekhor, the broker, was in the market, buying on behalf of an Australian client.

Even the market new comer, TSB, eased a shade in the unofficial "grey" market. Cleveland Securities, a licensed dealer, was last night quoting the partly-paid 50p shares at 90p, while Prior Harwin priced them at 91p. The level of oversubscription should be known later today.

The rest of the banking sector was mixed, with Bank of Scotland putting on 12p to 449p, while the other clearers went lower. Barclays dipped 8p to 479p, National Westminster 5p to 539p and both Lloyds and Midland eased 3p, to 439p and 564p respectively.

Blacks Leisure, the camping goods retailer where Sears has 10 days to go before the close of its £3.3-million takeover bid, is, I hear, drawing up plans for survival on its own should the Sears bid fail. The talk is that its directors are planning a £2.5 million rights issue as part of a financial restructuring package and are lining up a number of deals to



inject fresh life into the business. Their plans may even incorporate the business run by Mr Phil Edmonds, the England cricketer, who also tried to buy Blacks.

Blacks' shareholders, who now have little to lose, could well be advised in sit tight. Blacks' shares were unchanged at a rock bottom 4p, while Sears eased a couple of pence to 111.5p.

Good results from RMC failed to lift the shares, which closed 2p lower at 630p. Rival Rugby Portland Cement was 10p lower at 156.5p. Users of cement should be helped in the weeks to come by cheap cement imports from Greece.

Mr Nabil Boutar, chairman of the company, which began selling cement at a 10 per cent discount to British cement prices last week tells me he has

building sector, HAT Group, which failed in its attempts to get away from BET, firmed a couple of pence to 137p. BET lost 3p to 38p.

Shares in Pentland Industries firmed by 20p to 450p after a bullish forecast by Reebok International, its 37 per cent-owned US athletic shoe-making associate. In the first half of 1986, Pentland earned some 85 per cent of its pretax profits from Reebok, whose products adorn the feet of thousands of American "yuppies."

Reebok is predicting that earnings per share will top analysts' estimates of \$2.20, 2.30 this year and should then grow by 25 per cent a year until 1989 when annual sales

so far sold a couple of hundred tonnes. He is selling it a £39.75 a tonne, against British prices of £43 a tonne. It must also be bad news for cement producers like Blue Circle which controls more than 50 per cent of the British market.

The depressed mood of the market caught even Barrat Developments, which did so well the previous day on its results. The shares came back 2p to 158p. There is talk that Wimpey has already made a bid approach to the company at 210p a share, but that it has been turned down by Sir Lawrence Barrat, who wants more money.

The story might explain talk of a rights issue with yesterday's Wimpey results - which failed to materialize. Wimpey ended the day down 7p at 201p. Elsewhere in the

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Rover harks back to BL's tales of woe

Since Graham Day took over at what is now Rover five months ago, the stock market valuation of the group has fallen from £1.7 billion to £1.2 billion. Some £170 million disappeared yesterday, when Rover announced a loss, after interest, of £119 million for the six months to June. That compared with £43 million in the same period last year.

The core of the loss - £60 million at the operating level for Austin-Rover - had already been revealed. But interest charges are up by half and those losses do not include the once-and-for-all write-offs and restructuring costs of £84 million from selling Leyland Bus and Unipart.

The bottom-line loss is £205 million. That takes Rover back to the survival days of Mr Day's sometime predecessor, Sir Michael Edwardes.

The stock market valuation is artificial, extrapolated from dealings in the tiny fraction of shares in private hands. But it gives a fair view of the trend in Rover's fortunes.

Increased losses were not the only trip down memory lane. Once again, an incoming chairman has got rid of most of the senior managers. Messrs Ray Horrocks and David Andrews have already gone.

Harold Musgrove, the senior surviving manager, was the biggest domino to fall yesterday. But there was no influx of talent to suggest that newly-styled Rover will not repeat its age-old error - management too thin for the task.

Television contractors were a strong feature after Central Independent Television announced that its pretax interests had more than doubled to £5.3 million. Central gained 21p to 346p, while HTV firmed 17p in sympathy to 340p. Others to show gains included LWT and TVS, each 5p higher at 395p and 240p respectively.

United Newspapers, where Mr David Stevens is chairman, jumped 25p to 370p after producing results at the top end of City expectations. Stores had another bad day, on expectations of an interest rate rise with John Menzies, the newsgate, 7p lower at 243p. Marks and Spencer, down 5p to 192p, Stovehouse 5p off 310p, W H Smith 6p down at 268p and Ratsners 3p down at 213p.

Life insurance companies tumbled even further with Pearl Assurance 30p off at 1,448p, the Prudential Corporation 18p lower at 804p, Britannic 13p down at 804p and Legal and General 8p lower at 228p. Composite insurers were similarly affected. General Accident slid a full 20p to 799p, Guardian Royal 12p to 772p and Commercial Union 4p to 275p.

Siebe continued to suffer from the effects of its massive rights issue earlier in the week and fell a further 15p to 755p. Wellcome, after firming a penny early on, slid 4p to 195p on profit-taking after the encouraging news about its anti-AIDS drug. Other drug companies were also lower.

The truck business is certainly improving at home and really ought to do better after the departure of GM's Bedford. Its problems abroad, chiefly the collapse of old Empire markets in the developing world, are more intractable and were, indeed, the final straw for Bedford.

Freight Rover is now being associated with Leyland Vehicles. Had it not previously been part of Land Rover, the GM deal might have stood

a slightly better chance. The car business, as ever it seems, resists again on the success of the latest wonder model - the Rover 800. It has a strategy through the link with Honda, but is unlikely to fare permanently better until uncertainty is allayed one way or the other. The latest news is an uncomfortable echo of the past.

Saatchi's image slips

Saatchi & Saatchi, the men who work wonders with other people's images, seem to be having a good deal of trouble with their own. From a high point of 990p, the Saatchi share price has slithered and slipped through the summer to reach a low of 605p.

For a company accustomed to seeing its stock trade on a classy earnings multiple of 20 or more this is a humbling experience. If the forecasts for 1987 are right Saatchi shares are changing hands at little more than 10 times profits.

Unfortunately, the string of damaging news which has undermined the group lately is long. In New York yesterday, analysts were talking gloomily of another \$35 million to \$40 million of billings which may soon be lost because of conflicts of interest within the group. The problem arises over the billings of Quaker, handled by a Saatchi subsidiary, and General Mills, part of whose business is with Ted Bates, the company at the heart of Saatchi's troubles.

The City swallowed hard when Saatchi made a £400 million rights issue during the summer. The cash was forthcoming despite the scale of the issue. The advertising industry expected Saatchi to go for a major consultancy to broaden its base of operations. Three weeks later the target was revealed as none other than Ted Bates. To less than total enthusiasm, the world's largest advertising agency was born.

Within a matter of weeks, the troubles began. Saatchi lost major accounts like Nabisco, Warner Lambert and Colgate-Palmolive. The last billings racked up to hundreds of millions of dollars. Some losses were expected as there were bound to be conflicts in a merger that brought under one roof accounts of companies in competition with each other. Rival agencies could hardly believe their good fortune. Saatchi's ambition seems to have been greater than its judgement. The departure this week of Robert Jacoby, Bates's chairman and chief executive, brought the shares to their low point.

There is an air of resignation at the Saatchi headquarters at what is seen as a self-feeding irrational market movement. Net losses so far amount to less than \$100 million of billings from a group total of \$7½ billion. Saatchi accepts that the way to steady the nerves of a jittery City is to perform. Amen to that.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Hughes Food, Local Lon Co, M6 Cash & C, etc.

Table of recent issues including Barclays Tech F/P, Boots N/P, Brown & Tawse F/P, etc.

Table of recent issues including Barclays Tech F/P, Boots N/P, Brown & Tawse F/P, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchanges including Sterling spot and forward rates, Dollar spot rates, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of traditional options including First Dealings, Last Dealings, etc.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table of London traded options for various stocks like Allied Lyons, BP, etc.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Table of money market and gold including market rates, other sterling rates, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

J H Fenner (Holdings): Mr Roger Bexon joins the board as a non-executive director. GKN Keller: Mr Roy King becomes director, piling and construction and Mr Eric Murphy is made director of ground engineering. G T Unit Managers: Mr John Hawkes is appointed a director. Rank Xerox (UK): Mr Peter Blackmore takes over as director of strategic business development. Mr Paul Chapman becomes director of business management systems and Mr Les Jones is promoted to director of personnel. The Louisiana Land & Exploration Company: Mr Ernest J Leidner is elected vice president. Nash Industries: Mr D C Newton joins the board from October 1. Logitek: Mr E L Langton is made non-executive chairman. R J R Nabisco: Mr Gerald H Long and Mr James O' Welch are made senior executive vice-presidents. Mr Harold I. Henderson and Dr Robert J Carbonell become executive vice-presidents. Mr Andrew S Barrett is appointed senior vice-president, corporate personnel. Mr Michael M Masterpool is made senior vice-president, corporate public relations. Abaco Investments: Mr John Slater joins the board. Cementation International: Mr Michael Slater is promoted in managing director. The Electronic Engineering Association: Mr Peter Sachs takes over as director.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table of base lending rates for various banks and currencies.

CENTRAL CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION PLC Interim Results for the six months ended 30 June 1986. Includes turnover, group profit, earnings per share, etc.

Table with columns for various stock indices and company names, including AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

WALL STREET Dow falls sharply in early trade

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street share prices dropped sharply in early trading yesterday, ending the rally that began on Monday.

Nigerian windfall for British companies

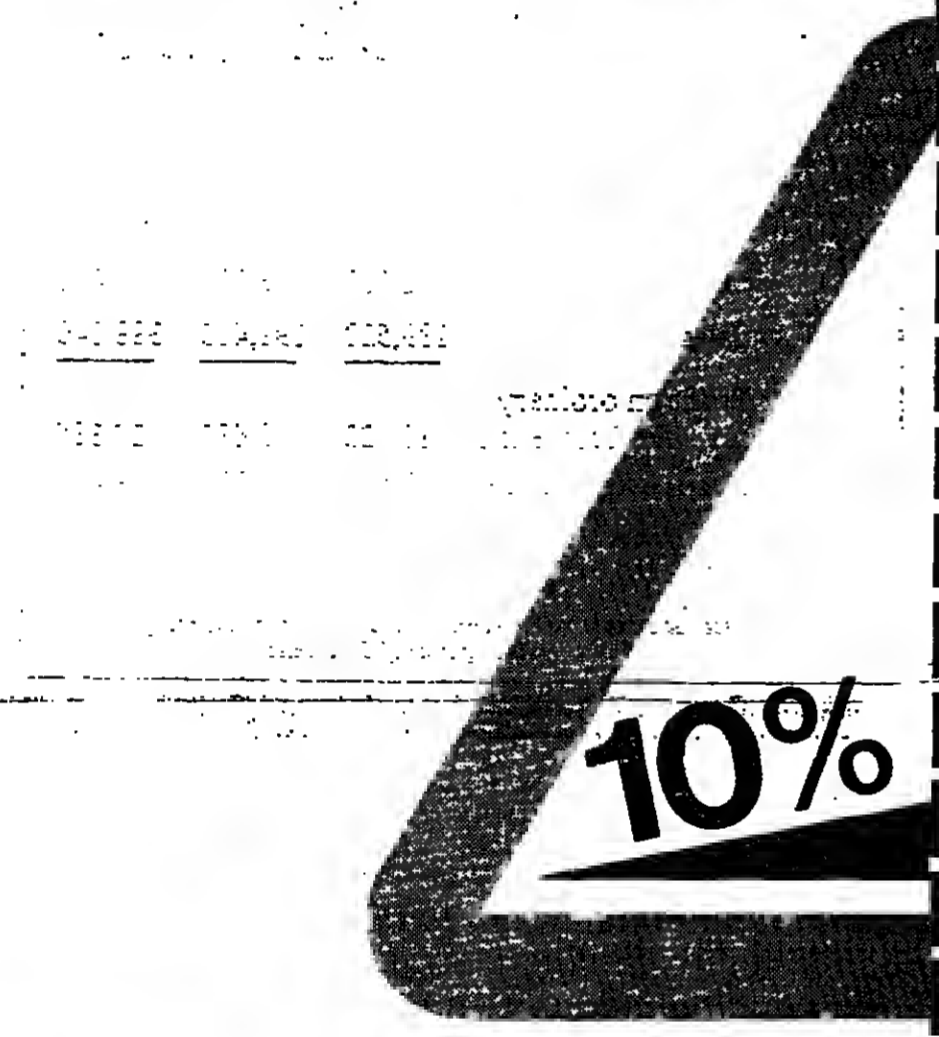
A number of UK companies, led by British Caledonian, could find themselves millions of pounds better off as the result of an important relaxation of foreign exchange controls by Nigeria.

Blow for rival OTC market

Plans for a group of licensed dealers to set up an over-the-counter exchange to rival the Stock Exchange Third Market have been heavily revised because the company owning the market-making systems the OTC dealers planned to use has ceased trading.

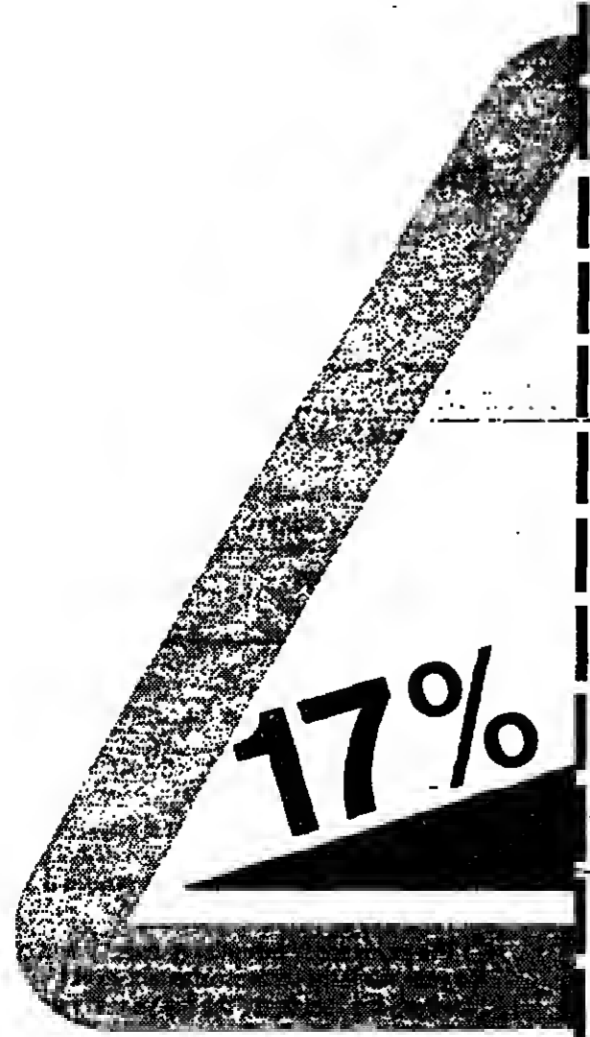
Wimpey may still have to settle for solid silver

Mr Cliff Chetwood, chairman and chief executive of George Wimpey must have the words 'there will be no loss-making contracts' engraved upon his heart. He takes a personal interest in ensuring that this maxim is closely followed. The objective is to improve the return earned on what amounts to nearly half of group turnover.



OPERATING PROFITS UP

Wimpey half-year results.



DIVIDENDS UP

All the signs are there for the second half. WIMPEY

FOR THE FULL INTERIM REPORT WRITE TO ANGUS MILLER, GEORGE WIMPEY PLC, 26-28 HAMMERSMITH GROVE, LONDON W6 7EN.

Superdrug HALF YEAR REPORT 26 weeks to 30th August 1986 (unaudited). Table with financial data: Turnover (Ex VAT) 93,483, Net Profit before Tax 5,183, etc.

Superdrug

In brief

M

Superdrug set for record profits

Superdrug Stores, the retail chemist company which made a dazzling stock market debut in February, 1983, has reported interim pretax profits 11.2 per cent higher at £5.2 million on sales 24.6 per cent higher.

The company said that comparisons with the previous first half were difficult to make because of the introduction of the northern warehouse operation. It was confident of record sales and profits in the full year.

The increase in turnover was achieved with nil price inflation. New stores contributed 15.3 per cent growth and existing stores 9.1 per cent.

The company has opened 20 stores since March, and it will have 300 by the end of the year.

The dividend is raised to 2.3p from 2p.

In brief

● **SCOTTISH, ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN TEXTILES:** Mr J Mackenzie, the chairman, told the annual meeting that management accounts for the first four months of the current year showed a downturn in turnover and profitability compared with the similar period last year. However, the main autumn selling season has started later than usual and sampling has only just begun. So it is too early to assess results from this.

● **SCOTT & ROBERTSON:** First half of 1986. Interim dividend 1p (0.9p), payable on Dec. 1. Turnover £10.81 million (£9.81 million). Pretax profit £25,000 (£402,000). Earnings per share adjusted, 7.21p (£3.27p). The second-half's results will not reflect an increase comparable to the first, but the board is confident that the outcome for 1986 should be better than 1985 by a significant margin.

● **SINTROM:** Interim dividend held at 0.75p, payable on Nov. 14, for the six months to June 30. Turnover £8 million (£7.95 million). Pretax profit £589,000 (£717,000). Earnings per share 4.2p (5.0p).

● **READYMIX:** Six months to June 30. Pretax profit £55,000 (£51,000), against a loss of £123,000 last time. Turnover £17.72 million (£18.49 million). Earnings per share 0.14p (loss 0.32p).

● **ANGLO-EASTERN PLANTATIONS:** Six months to June 30. Turnover £724,000 (£303,000). Pretax profit £28,000 (£30,000).

● **DOWDING & MILLS:** The company has agreed to buy Electric Motor Services, a private company in Ashford, Kent, for £350,000 in cash.

● **SPACE PLANNING SERVICES:** Year to June 30. No dividend. Turnover £2 million (£1.48 million). Pretax profit £440,790 (£286,497). Earnings per share 5.95p (3.69p).

● **MURRAY VENTURES:** Total dividend raised to 8.5p (5.5p) for the year to July 31. Proposed one-for-one scrip issue. The board expects to recommend dividends for the current year of not less than 10p - equivalent to not less than 5p following the proposed scrip. Pretax revenue £1.33 million (£983,000). Earnings per share 8.78p (6.10p).

● **TITAGHUR JUTE FACTORY:** No dividend (same) for the year to June 30. Turnover £45.85 million (£30.13 million). Net loss £12.53 million (£4.78 million). Loss per ordinary stock unit 88.10p (337.15p).

● **SPECTRA AUTOMOTIVE AND ENGINEERING PRODUCTS:** Half-year to July 31. Interim dividend 0.9p (0.82p), payable on Nov. 11. Turnover £3.08 million (£2.63 million). Pretax profit £197,000 (£215,000). Earnings per share 2.23p (2.10p).

● **HIBERNIAN GROUP:** Half-year to June 30. No interim dividend as stated in the listing particulars. Pretax profit £763,000 (£702,000) against a loss of £164.04 million. Premium income £154.66 million (£149.31 million). Earnings per share 0.94p (5.49p loss).

● **JOHNSON & JORGENSEN PACKAGING:** Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend raised to 1.35p (1.25p), payable on Oct. 31. Turnover £7.03 million (£6.74 million). Pretax profit £576,000 (£548,000). Earnings per share 4.66p (4.08p).

● **AGLAN PROPERTY TRUSTS:** Year to March 31. Dividend 0.1p (0.085p), payable on Nov. 24. Net turnover £9.31 million (£597,476). Pretax profit £463,611 (£72,734). Earnings per share 0.32p (0.16p).

● **TELEVISIONS ENGINEER CO:** No interim dividend (same) for the first half of 1986. Turnover (net of VAT) £3.42 million (£3.41 million). Pretax profit £71,815 (£10,938). Adjusted earnings per share 0.38p (0.66p).

● **DAVENPORT KNITWEAR:** Turnover for the half-year to June 30 rose to £3.36 million (£2.74 million). Pretax profit £493,000 (£343,000). Earnings per share 17.67p (11.25p).

● **FREDERICKS PLACE HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 30. Turnover £1.25 million (£932,000). Pretax profit £177,000 (£154,000). Earnings per share 1.94p (1.86p). The results are not strictly comparable because of changes in the composition of the group.

● **IMPERIAL GROUP:** The group is to repay the following loan stocks: the 8 per cent, 1985/90, 6.9 per cent, 2004/09, 7.5 per cent, 2004/09, and the 10.5 per cent, 1990/95. The repayments, involving £118.4 million cash, are necessary to allow a restructuring before the sale of Courage to Elders DXL. Repayments will be at par, apart from the 10.5 per cent, which will be £108 for every £100 nominal.

● **LAPORTE INDUSTRIES:** The company is entering the Australian building products market through the acquisition of Sydney-based Davco Services for Aus\$4.2 million (£1.82 million), with an additional profit-related payment of Aus\$500,000 at the end of 1987. Davco had sales of Aus\$7.8 million for the year to June 30 last - more than double the figure of three years ago.

● **MCLAUGHLIN & HARVEY:** Six months to June 30. Interim payment 2p (same). Turnover £23.52 million (£28.04 million). Pretax profit £314,000 (£704,000). Earnings per share 4.6p (11.9p). The board is confident that profits for the full year will be sufficient to justify maintaining the level of dividends.

● **BETEC:** Interim dividend 0.65p (0.5p), payable on Nov. 14. Turnover £7.48 million (£7.32 million). Pretax profit £560,000 (£476,000). Earnings per share - weighted average - undiluted, 4.23p (3.63p) and fully diluted, 3.00p (2.53p).

● **HAWTAIL WHITTING HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 10, 1986, compared with the period Jan. 11 to June 30, 1985. Turnover £15.68 million (£11.75 million). Pretax profit £1.04 million (£1.67 million). Earnings per share 18.5p (14.6p). The directors believe that the expanded computer-aided design facilities and the current level of design contracts will make a strong contribution towards profits during the second half.

● **HARVEY & THOMPSON:** Total dividend raised to 4p (4p) for the year to June 28. Turnover £3.25 million (£1.48 million). Pretax profit £850,000 (£445,000). Earnings per share 5.05p (8.50p). The current year has not got off to a start.

● **JONAS WOODHEAD & SONS:** Management accounts for the five months to August show a pretax profit well in excess of the same period last year, the annual meeting was told. The board expects the half-year result to be "most favourable".

● **AMALGAMATED FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS:** Agreement has been reached for the issue to HDFI Ltd of 6 million new shares at 16.5p cash each, or a total of £990,000. Afterwards, HDFI, an Australian-based investment banking and financial group, will own 23.53 per cent of the enlarged capital.

● **JAMES WILKES:** Interim dividend 3p (same) for the half-year to June 30. Turnover £5.2 million (£1.53 million). Pretax profit £230,663 (£514,835). Earnings per share 3.5p (7.3p). The board explains that this poor performance was entirely because of difficulties encountered by Deritend Engineering (1983).

● **TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES:** Total dividend 12p (11.5p) for the year to June 30. Gross income £6.29 million (£6.13 million). Pretax profit £2.66 million (£2.66 million). Earnings per share 15.26p (16.14p).

Profit improvement achieved against a background of preparing for growth

"Profits before tax of £10.1m for the first six months to 31 July 1986, compared with £9.7m for the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share have increased by 8.7% to 3.5p from 3.22p last year."

"The growth strategy is based upon developing the Group as a worldwide marketing organisation, built upon excellent service and distribution skills to industrial users and retailers. The Group intends to use its highly developed international network to ensure its marketing organisation draws upon the most cost and quality efficient sources."

"A new management board is being appointed which will comprise Executive Directors of the Group Board, Chief Executives of the major business units and key central staff and will be chaired by Mr. Geoffrey Maddrell."

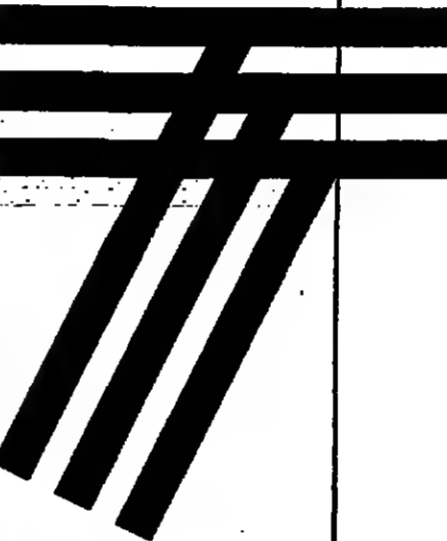
"No reason why we should not achieve a satisfactory improvement in full year earnings, thus justifying our ongoing commitment to a progressive dividend policy."

Alan Wrayneff
Chairman

| | 6 months to 31 July 1986 | 1985 | Year to 31 Jan 1986 |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Sales | 189,520 | 191,415 | 388,040 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before tax | 10,123 | 9,687 | 27,385 |
| Earnings per share | 3-50p | 3-22p | 9-43p |
| Dividends per share | 1-6p | 1-5p | 4-0p |

The half years figures are unaudited. The results for the year to 31 January 1986 are on an abridged version of the full accounts which received an unqualified report by the auditors and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

INTERIM RESULTS



If you would like to know more about us write to the Secretary for a copy of our current Report & Accounts.
Tootal Group plc,
Tootal House, 19/21 Spring Gardens, Manchester M40 2TL.

Tootal Group

Our names add up to strength

MC GROWTH

A growing name in growing markets

MC MCORQUODALE PLC

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund names, managers, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company names, prices, and percentages.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust names, prices, and percentages.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like sugar, copper, and oil.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for trust names and prices.

Handwritten notes in the top right corner.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. It matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Cash or Div. Lists various companies like Incheape, Low & Boar, etc.

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Total

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns: High, Low, Price, Change, % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table of Short-term investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of Medium-term investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of Long-term investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

UNDATED

Table of Undated investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

INDEX-LINKED

Table of Index-linked investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table of Bank discount rates with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Equities in retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 15. Dealings end today. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day October 6. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

BREWERIES

Table of Breweries with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table of Buildings and Roads with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

Table of Finance and Land with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of Chemicals and Plastics with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

CINEMAS AND TV

Table of Cinemas and TV with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ORAPERY AND STORES

Table of Orapery and Stores with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-O

Table of Industrials A-O with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ELECTRICALS

Table of Electricals with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BREWERIES

Table of Breweries with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table of Buildings and Roads with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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CINEMAS AND TV

Table of Cinemas and TV with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ORAPERY AND STORES

Table of Orapery and Stores with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-O

Table of Industrials A-O with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ELECTRICALS

Table of Electricals with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BREWERIES

Table of Breweries with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

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FINANCE AND LAND

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of Chemicals and Plastics with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

CINEMAS AND TV

Table of Cinemas and TV with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ORAPERY AND STORES

Table of Orapery and Stores with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-O

Table of Industrials A-O with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ELECTRICALS

Table of Electricals with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

BREWERIES

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS

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FINANCE AND LAND

Table of Finance and Land with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of Chemicals and Plastics with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

CINEMAS AND TV

Table of Cinemas and TV with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ORAPERY AND STORES

Table of Orapery and Stores with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-O

Table of Industrials A-O with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

ELECTRICALS

Table of Electricals with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. It matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table of Portfolio Gold investments with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table of Overseas Traders with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT

Table of Paper, Printing, Advert with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

PROPERTY

Table of Property with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

MINING

Table of Mining with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

SHIPPING

Table of Shipping with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table of Shoes and Leather with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

TEXTILES

Table of Textiles with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

TOBACCO

Table of Tobacco with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E

Es enclosed Es all B Forecast dividend B interim payment passed 1 Pncd at suspension of Dividend Forecast earnings or Ex other Ex other Ex other or share SM & Tax-free No significant data.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1980 THE HOME FINANCE COMPANY

NOTICE IN HEREBY GIVEN that an application was made to the Registrar of Companies...

LEGAL NOTICES

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DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Audi keeps up challenge at the top

The imaginative "Progress through Technology" campaign mounted by Audi this year is only the latest step in one of the most successful image changes ever undertaken by a car manufacturer.

Procon-Ten removes the wheel out of the way in the fraction of a second between a collision taking place and the driver's body being hurled forward.



Audi 80: An exciting new safety device

This remarkable repositioning started in 1981 with the launch of the Quattro as a high speed, four-wheel drive car aimed at enthusiastic performance conscious drivers.

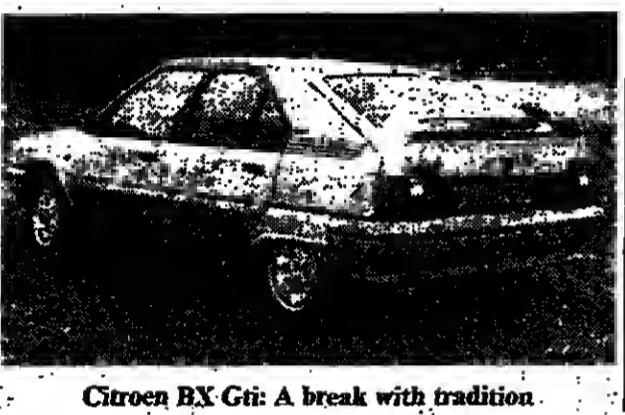
You will have to pay around £400 to have it fitted. The 80 will make its UK debut at next Month's NEC Motor Show and go on sale here towards the end of November.

Citroen's surprise

I am surprised that Citroen enthusiasts have not staged protest marches to the French Embassy about the terrible things that have been happening to their favourite car.

On the autobahn, however, all versions thrive. Judged on instrument readings only I was able to exceed all the claimed maximums from 106mph for the 1.6 to over 120mph for the 1.8i.

Many functions into such small areas has actually sold. Sadly, the new layout will be seen by many as yet another blow at Citroen individuality.



Citroen BX Gti: A break with tradition.

But the most exciting breakthrough is a new safety device to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries in head-on collisions.

IN BRIEF

Subaru, the people who made four wheel drive cars available for everyday motoring, are extending their range downmarket with the little Justy.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

SCOTT'S of Sloane Square. TEST DRIVE THE NEW AUDI 80 AT CENTRAL LONDON'S PREMIER AUDI/VOLKSWAGEN DEALER AND OFFICIAL QUATTRO AGENT.

CONTRACT HIRE. IMPROVE CASH FLOW. FIXED REPAYMENTS. NO RESALE WORRIES. TAX ADVANTAGES. FULL MAINTENANCE. FINANCIAL CAPITAL OUTLAY.

Get your business on the road with... Reading Communications, one of the country's best established dealers offering fantastic bargains on the 2000X and 8000X ONLY.

Whitehouse. 1985 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI CARBURETOR. In metallic black, 12,000 miles recorded.

Hard to Beat... Easy to Find. Little Chalfont Bucks. 5 minutes to Jct 18 M25.

928S AUTO 83. Cherished Plate. Cross country vehicle. Metallic Blue. 5 speed gearbox.

928 S2. Auto, C reg, Iris Blue. Sun Roof, Hi-Fi Pack. 18,000 Miles. £27,500.

911 CARRERA CARBURETOR SPORT. March '86. Guards red. black leather interior.

928S 1984. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

380 SE. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

380 SEL. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

380 SE. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

BREATH CHECK. ALCOHOL TEST COMPUTER. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. To rely on one's own judgement is heading for trouble.

CITROEN CX'S. 1988 0 Reg CX DTR SAFARI Delivery mileage only. Save over £2,000 on new price.

POLYGON GARAGE. Old Town Clapham, SW4. England's leading used Citroen specialist.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR NEW CITROEN BX AND ALL THE CITROEN MODELS. LOVEKYN.

ROYAL ASCOT. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

MIKE TURNER. ROVER 2000. Automatic. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

RANGE ROVERS. 85 B Auto Vogue. Derwent Blue. 86 Vogue Auto EFI.

THOR CAR SALES OFFER. SECURY XRI 1983. Red. 2000 miles. 1983. 2000 miles.

CITROEN ON THE PARK. LONDON'S MOST CENTRAL CITROEN DEALER. SALES, SERVICE & PARTS ALL IN ONE.

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ROYAL ASCOT. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

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RANGE ROVERS. 85 B Auto Vogue. Derwent Blue. 86 Vogue Auto EFI.

THOR CAR SALES OFFER. SECURY XRI 1983. Red. 2000 miles. 1983. 2000 miles.

MOTORS WANTED. ALWAYS REQUIRED. Enquiries, Saloons and Sports, low mileage, clean cars with history.

325i. Feb 84. Zander. 2000 miles. 1984. 2000 miles.

BMW 333i. 1978. 3000 miles. 1978. 3000 miles.

BMW 323i. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

CALTERDON LTD. 323i Cabriolet. 1984. 2000 miles. 1984. 2000 miles.

B.M.W. BMW 528i. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

BMW 323i. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

PORSCHE 911 SC SPORT. 1978. White with Marlin. 2000 miles. 1978. 2000 miles.

PORSCHE 911 SC SPORT. 1978. White with Marlin. 2000 miles. 1978. 2000 miles.

PORSCHE 928 S. White. Auto. Reg. May 83. 24,000 miles. 1 Owner. F.S.H.

PORSCHE 911. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

PORSCHE 928 S. White. Auto. Reg. May 83. 24,000 miles. 1 Owner. F.S.H.

PORSCHE 911. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

PORSCHE 928 S. White. Auto. Reg. May 83. 24,000 miles. 1 Owner. F.S.H.

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS. NORTHWICH MOTOR CO. LTD. YOUR CITROEN DEALER FOR CHEERIE.

RENAULT. The most competitive price in the UK. For quotations and delivery details.

BMW 323i. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

BMW 323i. 1985. 2000 miles. 1985. 2000 miles.

JULIANS. CAR BUYERS' GUIDE. 1985 Audi 80. 1985 Audi 100. 1985 Audi 100 S.

Basically Better to take full advantage of lenient handicap mark

By Mandarini

Basically Better, who has improved out of all recognition since being fitted with a visor, has an outstanding chance at the weights in the £15,000 Taylor Woodrow Construction Golden Jubilee Charity Handicap at Ascot today.

When a filly strikes form at this stage of the season, there is no knowing how far she will progress and the form book suggests that Basically Better has improved in the region of 20lb since the weight for today's race was published.

Peter Walwyn's filly looked a useful performer in the making when second to Sue Grundy on her debut at Lambourn a year ago and the Lambourn trainer held her at sufficiently high regard to run her next in the Rockfel Stakes where she finished a respectable seventh to Trafford.

After failing to show her true ability on her first start in this season, Basically Better was fitted with a visor for the first time at Warwick on August Bank Holiday Monday and opened her account with a five-length victory in a field of 23 maidens.

The Derrilyn filly was again visored and again partnered by Nick Carlisle when beating Fluttersy in a minor conditions race at Ayr a week ago and it is that victory which pinpoints her chance today.

On her previous run, Fluttersy had finished a close third to Entancing in the Strensall stakes at Ayr, a line through that filly makes Basically Better a marginally better horse than Entancing at level weights. As my selec-

tion is set to receive 19lb from John Dunlop's filly this afternoon, she has an undeniable chance.

So, with the Walwyn stable in form, Carlisle again in the saddle and the visor to be fitted once more, Basically Better looks a worthy nap to land this valuable handicap.

Restore, also a winner at Ayr's Western meeting last week, is fancied to defy his penalty in the William Hill Handicap.

Genf Lewis's lightly-raced Habit colt was gaining his first success at the Scottish track but had previously run

winning debut at Doncaster earlier this month and can underline his classic potential by beating Sharp Victor and Arras in the EBF Mornington Stakes.

So impressive was Michael Stoute's Northern Dancer colt that day, that he created more of a stir in the ante-post market for the 2,000 Guineas than Don't Forget Me, the winner of the Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes, on the same card.

Stoute saddles two well-bred newcomers, Miss Storm Bird and Shamana, in the EBF Kensington Palace Stakes but I prefer to rely on the twice-raced Chantemay, who had four previous winners behind her when a close fifth to Laluche in the group three May Hill Stakes at Doncaster.

Black Sophie regained the winning thread when tried over 10 furlongs for the first time at Newbury a week ago and can follow up in the Terry Ramsden Handicap.

Durham Place can gain his first victory for 28 months in the Parson and Crosland Stakes at Redcar. Kim Brassey's four-year-old has been given little respite by the handicapper since finishing second at Royal Ascot as a juvenile but has been running quite well under crushing weights for the last two seasons.

Tom Jones, who has a good record at the Yorkshire track, can land a two-year-old double with Instashin in the Newby Nursery Handicap and Yabeb, an unraced Alleged colt, in the EBF Carlton Maiden Stakes.

Today's course specialists

ASCOT
 TRAINERS: H Good 33 winners from 124 runners, 26.6%; H Wood 36 from 161, 22.4%; M Stoute 34 from 175, 19.4%; J Dunlop 27 from 130, 20.8%; J Gosden 25 from 250, 10.0%; P Fry 42 from 258, 16.3%; G Stoney 23 from 213, 10.8%.

REDCAR
 TRAINERS: G Harwood 12 winners from 38 runners, 31.6%; H Thomson Jones 21 from 82, 25.7%; M Prescott 15 from 72, 20.8%.

JOCKEYS
 R Good 11 winners from 40 rides, 27.5%; H Wood 13 from 73, 17.8%; P Fry 12 from 72, 16.7%; H Deves 26 from 151, 17.2%.

WORCESTER
 TRAINERS: J Jones 28 winners from 100 runners, 28.0%; M Prescott 20 from 111, 18.0% (only two qualifiers).

WINDSOR
 TRAINERS: J Jones 20 winners from 100 runners, 20.0%; M Prescott 15 from 205, 7.3%; H Deves 26 from 151, 17.2%.

well in several competitive handicaps and was certainly not winning out of them.

That Ayr race was over six furlongs but Restore was clear at the furlong marker in that stakes at Ayr and will certainly not be inconvenienced by today's return to the minimum trip.

Ajdal lived up to all expectations when making a



Invited Guest (right) masters Mountain Memory in the Hoover Mile at Ascot yesterday (Photograph: High Routledge)

Invited Guest shows perfect timing

Invited Guest is the new 8-1 favourite for the 1,000 Guineas with Ladbrokes after extending her unbeaten run to four in the Hoover Mile at Ascot yesterday. Coraks make the Robert Armstrong-trained filly 14-1 for both 1987 fillies' classics.

An impressive winner when measured by Steve Caughen at Goodwood's time out, Invited Guest again came with a well-timed run yesterday, getting up inside the final furlong to beat Mountain Memory by three-quarters of a length with Shining Water third. Mountain Memory had taken the lead at the furlong marker after Shining Water had tried to make all the running.

Caughen said: "I certainly see her as a classic filly. I asked Caughen to give her as easy a ride as possible today and, although he rather overdid it, I was never worried from a filly and a half out."

"Depending on the ground in

France, she may have a final run in the Prix Marcel Bousseau on Arc day or wait for the Grand Criterium at Longchamp the following weekend. However, it's very soft in France I won't run her again this season."

The day's other group stakes, the Cumberland Lodge Stakes, was won, almost inevitably, by Michael Stoute, who sent out Kazuroun to beat Highland Chief and Bakharoff.

Kazuroun was a most impressive winner. Having only his second race of the season, the Aga Khan's colt quickened clear, entering the straight and Bakharoff was never able to mount a challenge. Close home the disappointing odds-on favorite finished second place to Highland Chief.

Stoute had earlier initiated a double when he introduced the £2.6 million colt, Zajal, to make an impressive winning debut to the Curwen House Maiden Stakes.

Zajal led 1/2 furlongs from home and went on to beat Rose Reef by two lengths, earning a 20-1 quote for the 2,000 Guineas and a 25-1 offer for the Derby.

Immediate plans for the Seattle Slew colt are not clear but Pat Stoute, the trainer's wife, said: "Zajal did everything he should have done today and always has done at home, too."

Rose Reef, also making his debut and also beautifully bred, delighted his trainer, Ian Balding, who said: "He's got speed and will probably run at the next meeting here in the Hypocrite Stakes when his owner-breeder, Paul Mellon, will be over to see him run."

Country, beaten in a novice hurdle at Plumpton last month exactly a year ago, is 16-1 for the Cambridgehire after winning the Swinley Forest Handicap for David Elsworth.

Cloned Gary Carter to ride again.

Leger day, Fair County was produced by Gary Carter inside the final furlong and led 50 yards out to beat Ready Wit and Come On The Blues by a length and a head.

Steve Caughen tried to make all the running on the 1985 Royal Hunt Cup winner, Come On The Blues, but they were passed a furlong out by Ready Wit. However, Carter immediately challenged on the outside with David Elsworth's filly and they fought clear.

Fair County, having already picked up a penalty for the Cambridgehire by winning at Doncaster, does not incur any more weight for this victory and remains on 2lb for the Newmarket race.

Elsworth said: "I can't be sure we will get in the Cambridgehire so that is why we went for this race in the meantime. If we do run at Newmarket, I've cloned Gary Carter to ride again."

Li's target of six gold medals foiled

Seoul (Reuter) - China's ambitious goal of six gold medals in a dramatic ending to the Asian Games competition here yesterday. Only 24 hours after talking about collecting six gold medals, Li was outclassed to three of his five events by Yum Yunsik, compatriot, and by the South Korean, Kwoun Soon Seong.

Yang beat Li into second place on the horizontal bars and pommel-horse while in the parallel bars Li finished a distant sixth as Kwoun, a South Korean, came with the top Jong Hoon won the top pommel-horse.

The sixth men's individual event - the vault - was won by another Chinese, Lau Yun.

But the perfectly-proportioned Li made no mistake in the floor exercises and the rings, where he is the reigning Olympic and world champion. It brought his collection of gold medals here to four.

In swimming, China finally cracked Japan's dominance, capturing four more gold medals including the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay in which the top Japanese, Katsunori Fujiwara - the first athlete to win three golds at the games - failed to make up the two-point deficit needed for victory in the 100 yard.

Thirty miles away on the edge of the sprawling South Korean capital, a 16-year-old Filipino, Ramon Barasa, captured a surprise championship after a sudden-death playoff with the 46-year-old Kim Ki Bub, of South Korea.

Trainer moves on

Cologne (Reuter) - The struggling West German first division club, Cologne, has parted company with their trainer, Georg Kessler, after only seven months. The club, 16th in the 18-team league with just three points from seven games, said after a crucial away game last week that the decision had been taken by mutual agreement.

Kessler, aged 53, a former trainer of the Dutch national side and of top Belgian clubs, arrived in Cologne in February and helped them avoid relegation while reaching the final of the UEFA Cup.

ASCOT BBC 2

Tevised: 2.30, 3.5, 3.40, 4.15
 Going: good to firm
 Draw: no significant advantage

2.30 TERRY RAMSDEN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O: 28,012: 1m 20)
 (10 runners)
 104 14828 NIGHT OUT PERHAPS (G) (Maiden) G Whagg 9-7
 105 22232 GEORGE'S DELIGHT (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 106 22238 SATISFACTION (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 107 20715 FESTIVAL (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 108 20719 BLACK SOPHIE (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 109 20720 GEORGE'S DELIGHT (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 110 20721 GEORGE'S DELIGHT (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 111 00-016 GEORGE'S DELIGHT (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 112 3-2-21 NAJIDA (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 113 14222 HARD AS IRON (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 114 14223 HARD AS IRON (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11

3.5 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP STAKES (28,142: 50) (11)
 35 21288 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 36 21289 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 37 21290 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 38 21291 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 39 21292 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 40 21293 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
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 42 21295 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 43 21296 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 44 21297 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11
 45 21298 POLYTRAKS (G) (Maiden) M Prescott 9-11

FORM
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Ascot
 Going: good to firm
 2.0 (1m) 1. FAIR COUNTRY (G) Carter, 3-1
 2.1 Ready Wit (A) McGee, 10-11
 3.1 Come On The Blues (G) Caughen, 7-1
 4.1 ALDO RAN (G) Carter, 3-1
 5.1 MAJESTIC (G) Carter, 3-1
 6.1 MAJESTIC (G) Carter, 3-1
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 98.1 MAJESTIC (G) Carter, 3-1
 99.1 MAJESTIC (G) Carter, 3-1
 100.1 MAJESTIC (G) Carter, 3-1

Ascot selections

By Mandarini

2.30 Black Sophie, 3.5 Restore, 3.40 BASICALLY BETTER (nap), 4.15 On Tenentorks, 4.50 Ajdal, 5.20 Chantemay.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Hard As Iron, 3.5 Woodfolk, 3.40 Hidden Brief, 4.15 Swimmer, 4.50 Ajdal, 5.20 Gilt of Victory.

By Michael Seely

2.30 HARD AS IRON (nap), 3.40 Basically Better, 5.20 Miss Storm Bird.

4.15 EWAR STUB FARMS APPRENTICES HANDICAP STAKES (24,282: 1m 40)
 401 421-310 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 402 421-311 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 403 421-312 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 404 421-313 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 405 421-314 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 406 421-315 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 407 421-316 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 408 421-317 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 409 421-318 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 410 421-319 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11
 411 421-320 BRILLANT (G) (Maiden) J. Balding 9-11

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Results from yesterday's four meetings

1.50 (1m) 1. CAPTAIN'S MACE (Duke) 2-1, 2.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 3.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 4.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 5.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 6.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 7.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 8.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 9.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 10.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 11.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 12.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 13.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 14.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 15.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 16.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 17.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 18.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 19.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 20.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 21.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 22.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 23.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 24.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 25.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 26.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 27.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 28.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 29.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 30.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 31.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 32.1 Captains Mace (Duke) 2-1, 33.1 Captains Mace 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FOOTBALL

Italian decision to lift import ban sparks fears of a mass exodus

By Peter Ball

The Italian Football Association's decision to lift the ban on the import of new overseas players, which paves the way for Ian Rush to join Juventus next season, was greeted with trepidation in English football yesterday. Although the restriction on Italian clubs employing more than two foreign players makes a wholesale exodus unlikely immediately, the loss of only two or three top names following last summer's departure of Lineker and Hughes would be a further blow to the English game's dwindling appeal.

With leading Italian clubs AC Milan and Juventus, who are known to favour raising the limit to five imports, pressing for further relaxations, that must be a distinct possibility encouraging the fear that English domestic football could become a backwater. As the transfers of Lineker, Hughes and Rush demonstrate, even the most powerful English clubs find themselves unable to hang on to their greatest assets because they cannot match the wages on offer in Italy and Spain. Freedom of contract, climbing wages and the European ban has combined to leave English football an easy prey.

Howard Kendall, of Everton, was more sanguine, although he agreed that it is impossible for English clubs to compete with Barcelona and Juventus. "They are just in a different league, but it is not a new problem. Greaves, Law and John Charles all went. The Rushes and Linekers came along to take over from them, and they will be replaced in their turn."

Defender escapes with a fine

Southampton defender, Mark Dennis, has escaped with a disciplinary record in football, escaped suspension when he was found guilty yesterday of ungentlemanly and improper behaviour by the Football Association. Dennis was fined £250, severely censured, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay £200 costs.

Bailey faces a long fight for fitness

Gary Bailey, the Manchester United and England goalkeeper, will have a long and arduous fight to get back to his best. Bailey, who has been sidelined for seven months with a knee injury, saw a specialist on Wednesday and got the go-ahead to start weight training.

Wrexham have a boot on the other foot

Some rugby clubs like Blackheath or Liverpool are better known for their football achievements and some have greatest threat upon them. Wrexham might prove to be such a club. Geography is their greatest ally.



Donald Curry (above left) with 20 knockouts in 25 unbeatn contests, is one of boxing's most destructive punchers, but he holds no fears for Lloyd Honeyghan, who challenges the American for his undisputed world welterweight title in Atlantic City tomorrow. The Briton, unbeaten in 27 bouts,

became the top contender when he stopped Horace Shufford, of the United States. Confident of his chances against the toughest opponent he will ever have met, Honeyghan said: "I don't feel any extra pressure going up against Curry. He is just another man and I'm walking out of here with his title." There is little

doubt Honeyghan will have to excel if he is not to become the eighth unsuccessful challenger for the American's title. Yet Mickey Duff, Honeyghan's manager, believes there are weaknesses his man will be able to exploit - Curry's relative inactivity and problems in making the weight limit.

RUGBY UNION: WEBBE HAS THE QUALITY TO RECAPTURE PAST GLORIES

Bridgend should pin hopes on a wing, not a prayer

By Gerald Davies

Bridgend may well offer up a prayer for the return of the success they enjoyed so regularly a few years ago - they were Welsh Cup finalists for four consecutive years between 1979 and 1982 - but if they incline their attitude to the wing, they may find a more practical and exciting means of achieving it.

Then, with a quarter of the game remaining, Michael Griffiths, the scrum half, came right on the narrow side near the halfway line. It was a speculative probe which gained him a yard and, audaciously, he took another, but the corridor on the touchline was closing. For Webbe, the winger came inside and the scrum half gave him a timely pass going infield. Still, there was not much to go for: it was still a crowded patch. Changing his line but not his pace, he veered outside on a wide arc aiming for the corner. Those who gave chase were on slouches, coming as they did from Llanelli's three-quarters, but Webbe changed up a gear, opened the gap and showed a clean pair of heels to them all.

It was a try of the highest class, all grace and speed from a man while others floundered in his wake. The cheer it received was out of the narrow, partisan, kind but of generous enthusiasm of seeing a talent on song.

A few minutes later, without

Webbe, the Welsh wing, has been a constant presence in the Welsh scrum since he was a teenager. He has been with Bridgend for seven years, and despite his good form and frequent brilliance, he has been shifted back and forth from right to left wing and occasionally kept on rota to accommodate Mark Tittle, the Welsh wing who is now with Swansea. Webbe's inclusion in the Welsh squad cannot exactly be remembered for any sense of permanence either. His presence has been considered more to the nature of a stopgap.

Freeman's tries steer Reigate to victory

Schools Rugby by Michael Stevenson

Reigate Grammar School's game at home to Whitgift produced an excellent contest, narrowly won 16-13 by the home side. They led 10-0 at the interval and survived a storming finish by Whitgift, to win by a score of three penalties to a try and three penalties.

New captain for Surrey

Michael Gibson, now in his second season with London Irish, will captain Surrey this season (David Handwritten).

The county selectors have chosen a squad of 28 from which the team to play a warm-up game against British Police at Imber Court, on October 3 will be chosen.

Michael Stevenson FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL: NORTH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston Astros 5, San Francisco Giants 4. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles Dodgers 4, Atlanta Braves 1. CHICAGO CUBS 9, New York Mets 5. ST LOUIS CARDINALS 5, Philadelphia Phillies 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles Dodgers 4, Atlanta Braves 1. CHICAGO CUBS 9, New York Mets 5. ST LOUIS CARDINALS 5, Philadelphia Phillies 1.

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Peace returns to Atrincham

Non-League football by Paul Newman

While the unexpected success of Barnet and Scarborough has caught the eye this season in the race for the GM Vauxhall Conference championship and automatic promotion to the fourth division, a familiar name is moving into position just behind the leaders.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

FOOTBALL: Littlewoods Challenge Cup: Second round, first leg: Brighton 0, Nottingham Forest 1. Crystal Palace 0, Burnley 0. Derby 4, West Bromwich Albion 1. Everton 4, Newport 0. Manchester United 2, Port Vale 0. Chester United 0, Gillingham 0. Peterborough 0, Norwich 0. Reading 1, Aston Villa 1. Wrexham 1, Northwich 0. B&B Cup: Semi-finals: Dundee United 1, Rangers 1 (all Hampden Park). EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 2: Sweden 2, Switzerland 0. Group 3: Norway 0, East Germany 0. Iceland 1, Soviet Union 1. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Denmark 0, West Germany 2. Spain 3, Greece 1. CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 0, Leeds 0. Hull 2, Sunderland 0. Newcastle 5, Middlesbrough 1. Sheffield Wednesday 3, Chelsea 1. Manchester City 0, Sheffield Wednesday 2. Portsmouth 0, Aston Villa 0. Liverpool 1, Blackpool 1. Grimsby 0, Stoke 0. West Bromwich Albion 1, Southampton 1. Doncaster 1, Huddersfield 2. Torquay 0. FA VASE: Preliminary round: Thurston 1, East Thurston 0. Second round: East Thurston 1, East Thurston 0. Third round: East Thurston 1, East Thurston 0. GM Vauxhall Conference: Chesham 3, Torquay 1. Kettering 1, Mansfield 1. Leyton Orient 2, Woking 0. Weymouth 0. MULTI-PARTY LEAGUE: Group 1: Worcester 1, Mansfield 2. Worcester 0, Mansfield 1. Group 2: Worcester 1, Mansfield 2. Worcester 0, Mansfield 1. SOUTH EAST: First division: Reading 1, Northwich 0. Second division: Reading 1, Northwich 0. THIRD DIVISION: Reading 1, Northwich 0. SOUTH WEST: First division: Reading 1, Northwich 0. Second division: Reading 1, Northwich 0. THIRD DIVISION: Reading 1, Northwich 0. RUGBY UNION: TOUR MATCHES: Under 23, Canadians 13 (at Twickenham). RUGBY LEAGUE: TOUR MATCHES: London Welsh 13, Metropolitan Police 9. Newport 6, Bath 28. Pontypool 22, Munster 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11. RUGBY LEAGUE: TOUR MATCHES: London Welsh 13, Metropolitan Police 9. Newport 6, Bath 28. Pontypool 22, Munster 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11. RUGBY LEAGUE: TOUR MATCHES: London Welsh 13, Metropolitan Police 9. Newport 6, Bath 28. Pontypool 22, Munster 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11. Pontypool 12, Cardiff 11.

Six new caps at swimming

There are six new caps in Britain's swimming team to compete against the United States at the open international meeting in Blackpool from October 31 to November 1. They are Richard Leishman (100 metres butterfly), Susan Brooksbank (100m butterfly), Nina Herbert (200m breaststroke), Karen Pickering (50m freestyle), Shona Smart (200m individual medley relay) and Claire Tucker (100m breaststroke).

Michael Stevenson

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ICE SKATING

Manley in another league to Conway

By John Hennessy

Elizabeth Manley, of Canada, produced a bravura free skating performance to win the St. Ivel Ice International women's title by a length of the nearby Thames at Richmond on Wednesday night. The seven judges unanimously placed her first, with six glowing marks by 5.9 and eight of 5.8.

Joanne Conroy, the young British champion, still only 15, had another unhappy evening and declined two further places to fifth having been overtaken by the competitors from East Germany and the Soviet Union. Jill Trenary, of the United States, was runner-up.

Manley skated last, lifted the evening's drawing on to a higher plane altogether with a performance as near faultless as you can get on such a treacherous surface as ice. She executed four different triple jumps, the somewhat workaday toe loop and salchow being supplemented by the more demanding lutz and loop. She was fifth in the world championship last season. Promotion is imminent.

Miss Conway began well enough with an assured triple salchow, the jump that had eluded her, crucially, to Tuesday's short programme. But both triple toe loops betrayed her and she fell, too, on a double axel. There was some consolation for Britain in a display of Sharon Jones and Paul Ashkan in the original set pattern dance. They harnessed the Viennese Waltz beat to a sequence full of flow and character, and they were beaten only marginally into second place by the favourites, Kathrin and Christoff Beck. The judges split 5-4 in favour of the Austrian couple, who were seventh in the world last season, six places ahead of Ashkan and Jones.

Adjusting to life in Montana

By Conrad Voss Bark

English fly fishermen visiting American rivers have made several adjustments to traditional attitudes. The flies are different, the fish are different, and the rivers are different. One good trout river in Montana, not all that far from its source, is a series of three hand-picked wide and shallow enough for a man wearing breast waders to walk halfway across. It is practically all dry fly-fishing and, even so, the fly can snag on surface weed.

FISHING

The water is exceptionally clean and pure, in beautiful country of mountains and forests, and on grassy meadows some 5,000 feet above sea level grass deer, elk and bison, the latter known also as buffalo. Fishermen are advised to avoid buffaloes and, in the Yellowstone National Park, there are several types of bears which behave in odd ways but are in a charming river with the attractive name of Henry's Fork which was wider and more winding than the Thames at Wapping. The fish are in competition with several species. We were dealing with insects which are mainly new to us. Their blue-winged olive would not be recognisable as our own and they are very easy fish to catch as a malarious disease which was most unfamiliar. Our own artificial trout flies, which we used on the chalk streams in England, were not of much help. I tried some, but the fish would not put on an imitation grasshopper known as Joe's Hopper, well greeted to float, that the trout became interested. However, most of the fish were practically invisible and had to be fished on 6X points, known to the Americans as tippets. There is an honourable exception - an English pattern which has become very popular in America. More about that next week.

Entertainment listings for various venues including the Lyric Theatre, the Old Vic, the Royal Opera House, and the National Theatre. Listings include plays like 'The Firm' and 'The Firm', musicals like 'The Firm', and films like 'The Firm'. Includes showtimes and ticket prices.

SPORT



Every picture tells a story: Sumarno, of Indonesia, suffers as a putt refuses to drop in his match with Sam Torrance, but soon comes to terms with the idea (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Luton can earn draw or replay

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Luton Town and the Football League's management committee meet today for the first time...

ours. When other clubs have done the same their supporters will be made welcome here...

to the meeting. He is not even prepared to give up home advantage and hold the first leg of the second round tie against Cardiff City...

about our position in the FA Cup in October and, on May 22, the management committee agreed at their meeting to exempt us from the two relevant rules...

lous. They won't get it from us. Perhaps they will get it from the management committee...

RACING Sangster puts on a defiant face

By Michael Seely

Robert Sangster faced the break-up of his multi-million-pound racing partnership with Stavros Niarchos with a bold re-statement yesterday of his ambitions...

Irish hit form as Spain take a tumble

By Mitchell Platt

Ronan Rafferty (67) outscored Severiano Ballesteros (74) by seven shots to lead Ireland to a glorious victory in the \$1 million Dunhill Cup first round at St Andrews yesterday...

Wales will be more severely examined by Australia in the second round than they were by the New Zealanders...

Ballesteros, apparently suffering with a cold, holed from eight feet for a birdie at the 10th. But he took three putts at both the 13th and 15th holes...

Card of course

Table with columns: Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par. Rows for Old Course, St Andrews and Total yardage: 6,933 Par: 72.

The engaging Zambians will return home with their memories. Peter Sinyama was one stroke ahead of US Open champion Ray Floyd after six holes...

Inspirational figure needed

The late Sir Norman Chester was convinced that one inspirational figure should be selected to take the place of the Football League management committee...

Hill, aged 58, has been employed by both the national television networks, initially as head of sport at London Weekend and now as a presenter at the BBC...

Gordon Taylor is another possibility. After scuttling down the flanks for Bolton Wanderers, Birmingham City, Blackburn Rovers and Bury for 15 years...

As an administrator, the outstanding individual is Peter Robinson. After learning his trade as a secretary in the lower divisions with Crewe Alexandra, Scunthorpe United and Brighton...

Under the rules, the committee are empowered to use their discretion.

Abbey tribute to Sir Stanley

The football world turned out in force in Westminster Abbey yesterday to pay tribute to Sir Stanley Rous...

Scotland banking on future success

The last two weeks have proved to be good ones for the Scottish Rugby Football Union...

PROFIT-MAKER LOAN PLAN ONLY 12.3% APR PLUS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TAX FREE CASH BONUS

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HOME OWNERS PROFIT-MAKER LOAN PLAN ONLY 12.3% APR PLUS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TAX FREE CASH BONUS

SPORT IN BRIEF. Cycling's big wheel. Doug Dailey has been appointed as Britain's national cycling coach...

CLUBS' needs ignored. The Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, and the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, were told by letter today of the need to 'get young people off street corners and into sport'...

Defiant vows nuclear. There is \$22,000,000 in the weekly competition because there was no winner last week and \$4,000 in the daily competition. Yesterday's \$24,000 prize was shared by 100 readers...